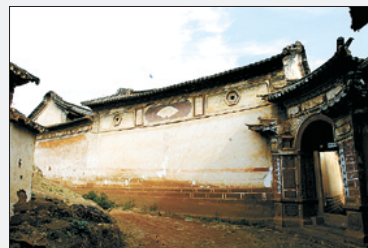




2008 now
Year of
the Panda

Pages 12-13, 16
and 24



Last of the
Tea-Horse
markets

Page 20

Bar girls told to cover up

Page 2

Fairy princesses head to Hebei



CFP Photo

By Huang Daohu

A Disney live show featuring three classic fairytales went to Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, Wednesday, to kick off its China tour.

The 70-minute performance, which includes skits from *Snow White*, *Cinderella* and *Beauty and the Beast*, will be in Chinese, the organizer said.

About 50 cast members hailing from the US and Canada are involved in the 7-week tour of major cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu before the show heads to other destinations throughout Asia.

The play will be shown at the Beijing Exhibition Theater from July 16 to 20.

Votes are in and Sarkozy is not welcome

By Jackie Zhang

French President Nicolas Sarkozy's is not welcome in China.

According to the result of an online poll released by Sina.com Wednesday, most netizens were opposed to allow-

ing the French president to attend the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

Sarkozy was considered extremely unfriendly by 88 percent of respondents, the same group said it did not want him

to attend the Olympic Games' opening ceremony.

The survey remains open, as many as 100,000 people have responded.

Many netizens have initiated online petitions to ban

the president. "We welcome friends to come to Beijing, but Sarkozy is not a friend. I hope all the people can come and sign to show their opposition to him," Jinhong95, a Sina.com blogger, wrote.

Page 3

Closed suicide case
sparks protests

Page 4

Shanghai stabber
kills six officers

Page 7

Why can't China
emulate Gates?

Page 8

92 days from
Olympia to Beijing



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Visa changes to ensure Olympic safety

By Han Manman

The recent changes to China's visa policy are aimed at ensuring a safe environment for the Olympics and not to limit foreign visitors, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

The government has always kept security as the top priority in preparation for the Games, and that meant keeping "hostile forces" outside the national boundaries, Wei Wei, director of the Foreign Ministry's Consular Department, said on Monday.

"Although there are changes in the visa procedure, the new policy is not as strict as might be imagined. Those who apply

to come to China for justifiable reasons will be given every convenience," Wei said, adding, "Western countries have even tougher visa policies than China."

The new procedures for visa applications, adopted in April, are in line with international practice and appropriate for the perceived security threats, while allowing regular personnel exchanges during the Games, he said.

Wei said the Foreign Ministry had done extensive research on the visa policies of countries that had previously staged the Olympic Games or major sporting events, such as the 2000 Sydney Games and the 2006 Turin Winter Games.

"After broad research on the visa policies during previous Olympics, we found that other host countries of the Olympics adopted stricter visa policies than usual," he said.

The Australian government tightened its visa policies in 2000 during the Sydney Games. It was reported that two International Olympic Committee officials were denied entry for security reasons.

Similarly, the Greek government reduced the number of visas for foreign workers during the 2004 Athens Olympics. Chinese tourists to Athens were required to provide a number of documents including proof of personal property and bank statements showing

no less than 50,000 yuan.

Wei also denied reports that the visa policy had led to low hotel occupancy rates. He said hotel occupancy is affected by many factors such as room prices and market fluctuations.

The application procedure for Chinese visas was changed in late April. Under the new arrangements, applicants for business and tourist visas are required to provide invitation letters, round-trip airline tickets and proof of hotel bookings.

According to Foreign Ministry statistics, the country issued 6.51 million visas to foreigners in 2005, 7.4 million in 2006 and 8.13 million in 2007.

Ministry steps in to keep sex, drugs out

By Zheng Lu

Karaoke bar and nightclub workers will have to scrap the skimpy clothing, according to administrative rules on entertainment venues issued by the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) Tuesday.

The rules cover employee dress codes, interior decoration and security facilities in karaoke bars and nightclubs. Skimpy clothing is not allowed and staff are required to wear identifying clothing, according to the regulations.

Doors and small rooms are required to have windows to show the activity happening inside, and the windows must be uncovered during business hours. Locks and bolts are not allowed on the doors. Lights with a dimmer switch are forbidden in the main area and auxiliary rooms.

Closed-circuit TV controls for security checks are to be installed at entrances, exits, halls and cashier stations of the bars.

Employees of the entertainment venues must register under their real names, and overall files must be set up for management. If the employees are foreigners, copies of their Employment Permits must be archived.

Karaoke bars and nightclubs are frequently fronts for sex work and drug deals. The new regulations, posted on the MPS's Web site, are intended to help combat prostitution and drug use.

The ordinances are also suitable for non-entertainment venues which hold a part-time business of singing and dancing and other entertainment activities. The new rules will take effect on October 1.

Overdrawn debtors face prison time

By Zhang Dongya

A credit-card user surnamed Wang, 22, was sentenced to six months in prison for his overdrawing his credit card by 5,000 yuan. It was the first time anyone was convicted and sentenced for overdrawing a card in Beijing.

Wang overdrew as much as 5,000 yuan from his China Minsheng Credit Card in 2006 and failed to pay his bills within the given time.

After demanding payment multiple times, the bank called police to arrest Wang. The total Wang owed, including the initial withdrawal, interest and the fines, was nearly double.

Wang said he lost his job after overdrawing and planned to pay his bill when he found work. However, banks require card holders to pay at least the minimum monthly payment on their balance. If debtors fail to pay after three months, banks assume the holders are in bad faith, the Xicheng District Court judge said.

Criminal law specifies four types of credit fraud, one of which is overdrawing.

According to the legal code, a card holder who, for the purpose of illegal possession, overdrafts beyond the limited amount or who remains overdrawn beyond the time limit and who refuses to repay the overdrawn amount will be considered to have overdrafted with ill intentions.

Those who overdraw more than 5,000 yuan will be sentenced to less than five years in prison and fined between 20,000 and 200,000 yuan.

"Banks always chose civil proceedings rather than criminal ones in the past, because in criminal action, the court will not take the amount of interest and overdue fine into consideration," the judge said. "However, in civil action, even if the bank won the lawsuit, it would be difficult to execute the law, while in criminal proceedings, the suspect can be captured."

According to statistics from the Xicheng District People's Court, 550 people were sentenced to compensate for debt last year.

Bomb sniffers ready



An Olympic team of 204 bomb-sniffing dogs from 20 Provinces and cities began their month long training program today. Photo by James Wang

Bureau issues temp plates

By Han Manman

Beijingers who have two vehicles both ending in even or odd digits will be allowed to change one plate's numbers during the two-month restrictions starting July 20.

The change comes as part of 10 new traffic measures the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau issued this week to help local residents and visitors during the Olympics.

The measures include an

upgrade of the traffic information hotline. "Starting July 20, the traffic information number '122' will offer service in English, French, German and other foreign languages," Zhai Shuanghe, vice director of the bureau, said.

The bureau will also create more parking spots and temporary licenses for special vehicles such as ambulances and school buses.

The city is implementing many measures to reduce its traf-

fic during the Olympics. It will halve the number of government vehicles, and has already removed 300,000 high-emission vehicles.

The 300,000 "yellow grade" cars, which fell short of benchmark emission standards, are banned from Beijing roads until September 20. Authorities also banned trucks, tractors and other "low-speed cargo vehicles" from entering municipal limits from neighboring provinces.

Beijing changes traffic accident policy for Olympics

From July 8 to October 16, drivers involved in minor traffic accidents during the Olympics will be required to remove their vehicles quickly from the scene to prevent traffic jams.

Beijing Traffic authorities announced the new rule last Sunday. It defined minor accidents as those that cause

slight injury or financial loss and from which the car can still be driven.

According to the rule, both parties must vacate the scene and either settle the dispute or call the police. If they fail to move their vehicle, drivers will be fined 200 yuan or receive administrative punishment.

However, the rule states that unlicensed or drunk drivers must remain at the scene and wait for the police.

The bureau said more traffic police will be assigned to patrol the street during the Olympics. Officers will arrive at the scene quickly after receiving a call for help, the report said.

Brief news

Airport metro ticket set at 25 yuan

The cost for a Metro ticket from downtown Beijing to the Beijing Capital International Airport is expected to be 25 yuan for a one-way trip after a hearing organized by the city's price supervisor Wednesday.

The 28-kilometer subway, which is currently in testing, begins at Dongzhimen in Chaoyang District and will cut the time of a trip from urban Beijing to the airport to 16 minutes from the current time of more than an hour by car or bus.

Air fare up to offset fuel cost

Domestic airlines are increasing fuel surcharges by as much as 50 percent starting Tuesday to offset rising fuel costs.

Each passenger must pay 80 yuan on domestic routes shorter than 800 kilometers, up from the current 60 yuan. For long-haul flights, the surcharge will rise to 150 yuan from 100 yuan.

Bullet trains enter testing

China's first inter-city express railway started its one-month trial on the Beijing and Tianjin route Tuesday.

The Beijing-Tianjin express railway is the country's first internally-developed express railway. The 115-kilometer journey would take 27 minutes.

Express service is scheduled to begin August 1.

(By Han Manman)

Protests push officers to reopen girl's suicide case

By Huang Daohen

Local police in Guizhou Province will reopen their investigation into the death of a teenage girl in response to 30,000 violent protesters who declared the case a government cover-up, Xinhua reported Tuesday.

Police in Weng'an County, Guizhou Province, initially determined that the 17-year-old high school student Li Shufen drowned. However, angry locals, who said she was raped and murdered by relatives of local officials, rampaged through Weng'an last Saturday.

Suspicious death

Police in Guizhou Province held a press conference Tuesday to publish the primary details of Li's death.

Wang Xingzheng, the provincial public security department

spokesman, said Li was with her boyfriend Chen Guangquan and two classmates before she jumped into the river and drowned on the night of June 21.

Wang gave no motive for the alleged suicide, and said there was no evidence Li had sexual intercourse before her death and no indications of rape.

Li's family and relatives, however, doubted the official determination. "There must be an explanation. There was no way she could jump into the river and kill herself," Lu Xiuzhen, Li's grandmother, said.

Over the past week, confrontations between police and the girl's family mounted and led to mass violence last Saturday when the Li's family started to parade with placards reading "Return justice to the people."

As many as 150 police and protesters were injured, and about 160 government offices and 42 vehicles were burned, according to the official release.

Deeper reasons

Provincial Party chief Shi Zongyuan said the incident started from a simple seed, but was hijacked by people with ulterior motives.

"There must be deeper reasons than the death of the girl behind this protest," he said. Disputes over mines, immigration, relocation of residents for construction projects and other issues had gone ignored for a long time.

He criticized local officials, saying their shortcomings dissatisfied residents.

Of push-ups and porn

Netizens began to flood the forums with discussions about

doing push-ups after the Guizhou police authority released the details of Li's death.

In the official version of her suicide, one deposition said that during a chat, Li suddenly told Chen, "I might as well kill myself by jumping into the river. But if I don't die, I will try to lead a good life afterwards." Chen immediately grabbed Li and stopped her from doing so. About 10 minutes later, Chen saw that Li had calmed down and so he began to do push-ups. Li then jumped into the river.

The phrase "doing push-ups" struck a chord with many forum-goers, and became the new Internet catch phrase of 2008 after "very yellow, very violent."

"This phrase has many potential interpretations, but the overall tone is sarcastic," Li Rui, a local resident, said.

Schoolgirls say unlicensed teacher molested them

By Jackie Zhang

A man who taught primary school for 11 years without a teaching certificate was arrested Sunday for sexually harassing his students.

For almost one year, Li Qiang (pseudonym), 37, has harassed 18 girls in his class.

The primary school is for children of migrant workers and is located in Sijiqing, Haidian District. Xiaoting, a girl in the class, told her mother in mid-June that she and the other students were afraid of being close to Li.

"He often strokes us. I have been harassed by him several times as well," Xiaoting said. She told her mom that all 18 girls in the class have been harassed by Li.

Li taught in the school since 1997 without a teaching certificate. "In the school's early years, we had more lax requirements for our teachers," Liu Jun, headmaster of the primary school, said.

Liu said that Li was from the northwest. His wife and two children remain in his hometown. "Li works hard and performs very well. In our eyes, he is a careful and cautious person. I can't believe he sexually harassed his students."

A girl in Li's class admitted that Li taught well. "But he always made excuses to harass us."

Last Thursday, the school dismissed Li and told the parents that Li would compensate each victim with 5,000 yuan, but refused to be responsible for Li's behavior. The parents called the police.

"The school must shoulder its responsibility in the case," Li Enci, the retired vice-director of College of Politics and Law, Capital Normal University, said. "Li Qiang lacks a teaching certificate, so it was illegal to hire him as a teacher," he said.

Lawyer Wang Yiqun said the country lacks related laws to protect children. "According to the Teachers Law, teachers who humiliate students or who are a bad influence must shoulder legal responsibility. The Civil Law and the Law on Protection of Minors offer some protection for children," Wang said.

"But we don't have clear regulations on sexual harassment. Besides, Li Qiang lacks a teaching certificate, so it is hard to prosecute him as a teacher," Li Enci said.

The case highlighted the need for parents to protect their children from sexual harassment.

Nellie Wang has a 10-year-old daughter. "We have told her to protect herself. We told her she mustn't let strangers, sometimes friends and close people, touch her body. But she is too young and doesn't know what sex means," she said.

"It is difficult and improper for us to explain it too clearly. I think it's a problem for parents," she said.

Depressed IBM engineer goes unpaid despite ruling

By Jackie Zhang

Yuan Yipeng, 26, started his career at an IBM Shanghai branch as a research and development engineer in 2006. His experience with the company turned into a nightmare after he was declared clinically depressed last June.

The engineer graduated from Wuhan University in 2006 and signed a five-year contract with IBM China to work in its Shanghai company. But pressure built, and soon doctors declared that Yuan had clinical depression. He reported their assessment to his manager and submitted his resignation. His department did not approve, and suggested he take a sick leave to seek treatment. Last August, when Yuan returned to work, he was thrown out of the company. At the end of this February, IBM Shanghai Branch terminated its contract with Yuan on the grounds that he repeated violated company rules.

Yuan said he thought the company was discriminating against him for his condition and appealed to the arbitration committee for labor dispute in Pudong District, Shanghai, in March. His case, if true, would be the first reported incident of discrimination against depressed employees in China.

Last month, the committee made its judgment. The decision said that IBM Shanghai Branch was not the body of IBM which entered a contract with Yuan, so it had no right to terminate the contract. IBM China was required to continue its working relationship with Yuan and compensate him for four-months salary and 57,332 yuan.

"However, the company has not responded to the ruling," Yuan said Tuesday.

Thus far, IBM's only action has been an official response shortly after the ruling. It said IBM was committed to providing working staff with a safe and healthy environment. Regarding Yuan, it said that it had helped him with finances and medical care since he asked to resign in June. No mention was made of intent to comply with the judgment.

"IBM insisted that the contract relationship with me was over since I wanted to resign last June. But the fact is they didn't approve my resignation. If our relationship was over, why would they wait until February to terminate my contract?" Yuan said.

He tried to kill himself twice since the dispute began last year. "The company refuses to pay me my salary. For the last year, I have been barred from work and have no income. My treatment was halted and I don't have money to buy medicine. Severely depressed patients can't live without medicine," Yuan said.

Yuan will begin a hunger strike Tuesday if IBM persists in ignoring him. "My life ended the first time I attempted suicide. I hope my case can draw attention so that other depressed patients can be protected," he said.

Chen Qingguang, Yuan's lawyer, said Thursday is the deadline for IBM to appeal to the judgment. "If they don't have any disagreement, then they must comply with the ruling," he said. "If the company refuses to do anything, Yuan has a right to ask for legal help to compel IBM to obey the decision."



Once scheduled for demolition, the building has been a convenient dumping ground for displaced Chongqing families. CFP Photo

Affordable housing under the expressway

By Annie Wei

Home is a six-floor dilapidated building under an expressway for 24 families in Chongqing municipality.

Residents were first resettled in the building since 2002 after the government reclaimed the land on which their original homes lay.

Shen Chenghua, one of the earliest residents, said he was told the land on which he used to live was reclaimed to build a Hotel Sheraton.

The government paid a compensation of 800 yuan per square meter, though the average housing price was 1,144 yuan at that time. Shen's income as a retiree was about 1,000 yuan per month.

Other neighbors include laid-off workers, temporary workers and people who live on government welfare.

The trouble started in 2005. As economic development surged, so did the traffic on the expressway just overhead. Every time a 10-ton truck passes by, the residents experience an earthquake. The building shakes, the windows rattle, the beds shift and glasses of water spill.

Wang Yuguo is a old deaf man on the fourth floor. To protect his heart, he no longer wears his hearing aid and quit reading the newspaper in bed at night. Shen hangs wet

clothes in his home to prevent them from being covered by the dust of passing trucks. Zhang Ganshou, a worker, said he could tell the weight of each truck and its speed from how his window rattles.

The six-floor building offers a view of the city's most prosperous areas like the Sheraton Hotel, its bar-street and the twin towers, where they used to live.

Realizing something was wrong with their compensation, many residents called government hotlines and visited related authorities. No answers were to be found.

The slum drew media attention when photos of it first appeared online.

Jiang Yi, deputy director of the construction committee of Nan'an district, admitted that the building should have been demolished six years ago. It was kept as a place to resettle the people it displaced who could not afford other housing options.

Jiang said that the Chongqing government had resumed its reform project, and 600,000 square meters of housing are scheduled for demolition. Thousands of residents are waiting to be resettled.

Two weeks ago, local government announced that the building under the expressway would be demolished in three years.



Yang's weapon

Bloodbath kills six police officers



The suspect criminal Yang

By Han Manman

A jobless man armed with a butcher knife stormed a police station in Shanghai Tuesday, slashing and stabbing the officers. He killed six

policemen and injured three others as well as a security guard.

The bloodbath, the worst assault on police in the history of the city, shocked not only the nation

but also the world. How could the attacker manage to stab so many police officers? Why did he ignore all the female officers? There are many unanswered questions left to be dealt with.

Was revenge the motive?

Another police officer died late Tuesday night from stab wounds, becoming the sixth to die from the frenzied attack at the Zhabei District Public Security Bureau office building Tuesday morning in Shanghai. The three other officers and the security guard are now in stable condition.

According to the Shanghai public security bureau, the killer surnamed Yang from Beijing set a fire outside the police station's front gate at around 9:40 am Tuesday, attracting a security guard's attention. He stabbed the guard and then charged into the station. He then stabbed nine police officers, five of whom were confirmed dead after being taken to a hospital. Yang was apprehended on the 21st floor by riot police, the bureau said. The victims suffered stab wounds to the chest while others were slashed across the face or neck.

"When the four (policemen) were carried into the emergency room, their bodies were soaked with blood and their faces were pale," Xinhua quoted a witness surnamed Jia at the Changzheng hospital as saying. "The scene was too bloody to watch."

The motive for the stabbing spree remains unclear, but a previous notice by the Shanghai Public Security Bureau said it was revenge. Yang was suspected of stealing bicycles, and was held and questioned by officers at the Zhabei bureau last October, the bureau said.

Police in Beijing searched Yang's home and began to investigate his mother, but no further information has been disclosed yet. Officers established that Yang was a loner and rarely left the home.

Emergency training

One day after the case, Zhabei District Public Security Bureau re-opened the office. According to Shanghai media, all the security guards in the bureau took billy clubs with them. Armed special police officers stood at the bureau entrance gate.

A Zhabei bureau guard told Shanghai media that they received urgent training the night after the incident took place. All the police stations in Shanghai have now beefed up their security.

Violent street crime is rare in China, especial in Shanghai. Following the first shock of hearing about the police bloodbath, Shanghai citizens began worrying about personal safety and had doubts about the police station's emergency mechanism.

"It is so horrible! I can't image a criminal could enter a police station and kill so many policemen," a Shanghai resident Li Xin said. "If 10 policemen cannot cope with one crime, how can they protect our safety?"

An insider said that the Zhabei District Public Security Bureau is a basic level police station and open to the public during usual work hours. The insider said the killed and injured police officers were all doing civil service work in the station. The act happened so fast that the police had no time to react and, possibly, the officers were not armed.



Doctors do emergency treatment on one injured policeman.



Policemen block the scene after the incident happened.

Xinhua Photos

Strict gun control

It was not immediately clear how the attacker managed to stab so many police officers and why he was not detained after setting a fire outside the building. The police safety issue became a hot topic. Some people asked why did the police not shoot the attacker. The Shanghai public security bureau has offered no comment.

The country has a very strict management system on gun use by police, said a police officer surnamed Zheng from the Beijing Fengtai police station, who refused to give his full name. He said private gun ownership in China is virtually banned, even the vice-squad cannot use guns freely.

Zheng said the "weapon" they usually take is only a billy club and handcuffs.

"We are only allowed to take guns when dealing with emergencies or special cases. However, we need to report to a higher level first and then wait for approval," Zheng said.

Zheng said there is a special room in the police station that they call the "gun room." Three officers have a key. Only with an approval application form and three officers present can a police officer take a gun from the room.

Zheng said not only do their police officers need to take special combatant training when they train for the job, but civil servants in the station also need to be similarly trained. The Ministry of Public Security also requires an annual assessment of the policeman's "skills", including fist fighting, she said.

A well-behaved son

During the violent act, Yang ignored all female officers, which some psychology experts said may be due to Yang's family background.

The *Beijing Times* reported that Yang's parents divorced 14 years ago, and the man has been living with his mother, an employee of a state-owned enterprise in Beijing.

When informed of the alleged attack by his son, Yang's father said he did not believe it and that his son had always been well behaved.

"I felt extremely sorry, but if Yang did commit this crime, he must be punished by law," the father said, adding, "The biggest wish for me now is to see him, but ... I may never see him again."

His father told the newspaper that Yang was anti-social and eccentric, but well-behaved, as a boy. He also admitted that the two had little contact with one another since the divorce.

"We had little communication and seldom saw each other since I divorced his mother in 1994," the report quoted the father as saying. "Every time he collected child support payments, we would have a short talk, but he would never tell me his innermost feelings."

"His only hobby was reading," the father said. "Every year I bought books for him on his birthday. He loved to go to the book store."

His father said Yang was not a good student. After graduation from a junior high school, the boy signed up for a marketing course at a private vocational school. However, he could not find a job after leaving school.

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Rogers says don't sell, even amid the worst



Rogers expressed his optimism for China's A shares at the Shenzhen investment forum. CFP Photo

By Huang Daohen

American investor Jim Rogers urged Chinese investors not to sell their shares and to wait for a turnaround in the market.

"It's not wise to sell Chinese stocks in 2008. I'll say it again. China's stock market will reach 10,000 points one day," Rogers, attending an investment forum in Shenzhen on Monday, said.

China's stock market has plummeted by nearly 60 percent since the middle of October last year, and the past June has been labeled by many investors "the worst month ever." The Shanghai Composite Index reached a new low yesterday at 2,566.5. A-share market capitalization has fallen by 18.18 trillion yuan.

But Rogers said investment chances were appearing. "I have faith in A-shares. I bought some H-shares in April. If the Chinese stock market continues falling, I'll probably continue buying in July and August this year," he said.

He said panicked sales may be the reason why the Chinese stock market has performed the worst in the

world this year. "I don't know where the bottom will be, but panicked selling harms the share market," he said.

Rogers admonished Chinese investors and said they should be responsible for their investments. "Some investors call the fund company, call the government or call the media when they see losses. But it's not the government's fault, nor my fault. It's your own fault," he said. "You invest in the company when you don't even know the company. It's not so easy to make money."

"The market went up a lot, and now it's down. It is correcting," Rogers said.

He also urged the government not to panic. "These things happen all the time. They happen throughout history," he said.

"If the government does something, it will make it worse. The government should stay out of it. They can hold it up for a while, but it would get worse later on," he said.

Rogers said he is still bullish on grain, infrastructure and sewage treatment, but does not have faith in financial shares.

Clamp down on 'hot' cash

(FT) - The government announced a major strengthening of its capital controls last night in a bid to limit the amount of speculative "hot money" entering the economy and frustrating its efforts to contain inflationary pressures.

In an announcement on its Web site, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, the country's foreign exchange regulator, said exporters would be required to park revenues in special accounts while authorities verified that the funds were the result of genuine trade.

According to the new rules, exporters will now be required to provide documentary evidence that their invoices are based on genuine business transactions if they wish to convert US dollars into yuan.

GM's China sales growth slows

(Bloomberg) - General Motors, the biggest overseas automaker in China, said sales growth in the country slowed in the first half as competition intensified with Toyota and Volkswagen.

The car maker boosted sales by about 14 percent from a year earlier in China over the past six months to more than 590,000 vehicles, Joseph Liu, vice president for GM China, said.

That compares with a growth rate of 19 percent last year.

Zhao won auction to dine with Buffett

By Huang Daohen

A lunch date with billionaire investor Warren Buffett was sold to a domestic hedge fund manager for US \$2.1 million in an online auction, tripling last year's record of US \$650,100.

Zhao Danyang, who manages the Pureheart China Growth Investment Fund in Shenzhen, won the auction by bidding US \$2,110,100, *Oriental Morning Post* reported.

It was Buffett's ninth annual auction to benefit Glide, a San Francisco charity. A total of nine bidders placed 78 offers over five days this week, according to records from eBay, the auction Web site.

Buffett said he was shocked to hear the final bid. He will entertain Zhao at a New York steakhouse and answer any question except what he is buying and selling.

FedEx enhances domestic service

By Huang Daohen

FedEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx, announced recently its latest domestic service enhancements in China.

Its domestic service offers earlier next-morning delivery to nine major cities in China including Beijing, Shanghai and Guanzhou.

Packages will now reach their destination by 10:30 am, Monday to Saturday, with the FedEx money-back guarantee.

Customers within the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta can be offered later cut-off times for intra-region shipments.

Prof takes out ad to apologize for false forecast

By Annie Wei

A Beijing University professor Xu Dianqing said he would pay out 140,000 yuan for an advertisement in the *Nandu Weekly* next Friday for losing his bet.

Last year, Xu made a bet with the well-known financial critic Niu Dao on Shenzhen's real estate prices in 2008.

Xu said that if real estate prices in Shenzhen as of July 11, 2008 were one fen lower than that of one year ago, he would take out a full-page ad in a local newspaper to issue a public apology.

Ever since the bet, Niu Dao

has been using the mean price of finalized real estate property deals as documented by the Shenzhen Municipal Bureau of Land Resources and Housing Management. Professor Xu has been citing sales indexes from the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBC).

The different resources provided each reasonable support for his argument. However, statistics from the National Reform and Development Committee and NBC have shown monthly decreases in Shenzhen's market.

Shenzhen was not alone in

seeing a fall in real estate prices. The market has faced a similar situation in many cities.

The new housing loan policy has made it hard for investors to buy second or third apartments. Developers have been forced to drop housing prices, and consumers are waiting for prices to drop even further.

In Beijing, the peak season for real estate sales did not arrive as predicted this year. In April and May, newly-built areas added 1.85 million square meters to the city's real estate offerings, but only 1.7 million square meters were sold.



Xu Dianqing CFP Photo

In the first quarter, 20 percent of the consumers returned the new apartments they planned to buy.

However, no one can confirm yet if this is a turning point in China's real estate trends.

Disney denied Shanghai park building

By Huang Daohen

Walt Disney has not reached an agreement with the Shanghai government to build a theme park in Shanghai, the media and entertainment giant said Monday.

"There is no agreement and there is no deal to construct a theme park in Shanghai," the company's vice president of corporate communications Alannah Hall-Smith said in a statement.

Disney issued the statement to deny earlier media reports that said it would build a theme park in the Chuansha area in Shang-

hai's Pudong district.

Hong Kong's Wen Wei Po reported last Saturday that a Disneyland park, with a budget of 40 billion yuan (US \$5.7 billion), would open as early as in 2012 near Chuansha area in Pudong district of Shanghai, about 20 minutes from Pudong International Airport.

The exclusive report said the park would cover 10 square kilometers of land - eight times the size of Hong Kong Disneyland.

The report quoted unnamed people involved in the discussion,

saying Shanghai park won't follow the Hong Kong model, and the Shanghai government will provide the land, finance construction and own the majority stake in the park.

Management rights will be given to Disney, which will also get royalties and a percentage of operational income, the report said.

The Shanghai government also denied the alleged agreement with Disney. "The project still needs approval from the central government," Chen Qiwei, spokesman for the Shanghai municipal gov-

ernment, told Reuters.

Disney has been in talks with China for about a decade to build a Disneyland in Shanghai. In 2002, the company signed a statement of intent to build a Disneyland on the mainland in 2002, and then set up a venture to develop it.

The plan was put on hold because of concerns that the Hong Kong park would suffer.

In March this year, Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng said the city had applied to the National Development and Reform Commission to build a park.

Gates gives up fortune to charity



Gates' retirement was a catalyst to deepen discussion about the nature of charity.

Xinhua Photo

By Zhang Dongya

Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, announced his retirement from his full-time executive role at Microsoft last Friday. The 52-year-old Gates will dedicate himself to philanthropy via the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation which he built with his wife.

In addition, Gates donated nearly all his vast fortune, 58 billion dollars, to the foundation, without a single cent going to his own children.

Gates will continue to serve the company in a non-executive chairman post, and spend time working for the

company one day a week, with the remaining time spent on his charitable interests.

His behavior was a catalyst to deep discussion about philanthropy and the nature of charity.

Gates pointed out that the world has its own "positive contribution" and said this is his and his wife Melinda's collaborative decision. "We decided not to distribute property to our children and we hope that most people will have a positive impact on the way they contribute to their community," he said.

Once the world's richest man, Gates' personal fortune has been estimated at about 58 billion dollars, Forbes Magazine reported. He slipped to third place this year, behind investor and good friend Warren Buffett and Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, founded in 2000, is the largest charitable foundation in the world. The primary aims of the foundation are to enhance healthcare and reduce poverty, and, in the US, to expand educational opportunities and access to information technology.

Expert view

Philanthropy in Western countries has a long history and has become a tradition. It has much to do with Western religion, the legal system and some auxiliary policies like the preferential tax policy.

It reflects two main differences between Western countries and China. The first is how the entrepreneurs in China deal with their own company assets and transfer them to the social fortune. It is still a problem in China that enterprises' donations are not recognized

and appraised by the public. Since the reform and opening-up policy is only 30 years old, philanthropy in the corporate culture remains unpopular.

The second one is deals with Western countries: charitable societies, organizations or foundations like Gates' fund are independent legal bodies to some extent, which have their own operation systems and are supported by auxiliary regulations or policies.

However, in China, the government always assumes the responsi-

bility of salvation and support. Only now is the social welfare and social assistance system in China beginning to improve and develop. Charitable organizations in China, like the Chinese Red Cross Foundation, are mostly quasi-official. Therefore, they cannot win total trust from the public, which was shown during the Sichuan earthquake this year.

— Zhu Feng, professor of the International Relations School of Beijing University

Comment

Correct fortune value

The right perspective on fortune decides the direction of the money. Gates donated to "create a positive impact on the way one contributes to the community" and the industrialist-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie said it was a mark of shame to die with money in the bank. Philanthropists and entrepreneurs in China should learn the correct perspective on fortune from them.

— Wang Shichuan, commentator of the Yanzhao News

Don't spoil the kids

China is famous for holding the

family in high regard. However, there is an old Chinese saying that, "a rich family cannot keep wealth for three generations." Rich people in China always leave a big amount of money as legacy to their children, which does not help them, but spoils them and causes conflict.

— Li Long, commentator with the Guangzhou Daily

Watch the money

People are always worried where the money goes in China, which is an important factor that stops the rich from donating. The Gates established

"Catch-15," 15 regulations to restrict funds and guarantee the money. It is necessary for China to build a similar set of regulations to supervise donations.

— Chen Rongxia, commentator Oriental Morning Post

Beyond our means

We admire and praise the Gates' behavior, but we are sorry we cannot do it as well. Our companies are still young, and it is too early to talk about such things.

— Ding Lei, former CEO of 163.com



The controversial south China tiger photographs by farmer Zhou Zhenglong were fake.

Xinhua Photo

The truth about tigers

By Huang Daohen

The controversial Shaanxi South China tiger photograph has finally been determined a forgery by the government, Beijing Youth Daily reported Monday.

The principal character in the scam Zhou Zhenglong, who allegedly fabricated the photos, was arrested and 13 government officials were disciplined, the report said.

The confirmation is welcome and has forced the public to reflect on a lesson learned. Why did it take so long to confirm what everybody knew and Netizens made abundantly clear? Could it possibly have been a desire to boost tourism by claiming that the extinct tiger was indeed alive and burning brightly in the forests of Shaanxi Province?

Questioning the gov

Many people doubt that an ordinary farmer like Zhou would be capable of fabricating such a hoax alone, saying he was just a tool manipulated from behind the scenes and now he's a scapegoat.

Hao Jingsong, a legal studies scholar and one of the most famous "paper tiger fighters," called the hoax an organized group activity.

He based his theory on the following questions, "How can a farmer who cannot even handle a camera well shoot so many photos? What gave him so much confidence as to lie for more than eight months?"

The whole paper tiger saga says a lot about government credibility. The provincial forestry authorities published the fake photos without serious investigation and claimed last October that the photos were proof that the South China tiger was not extinct.

The existence of flesh and blood tigers would mean huge state investment in a nature reserve and that would be a huge boost to tourism, Hao said.

One can understand why some local officials repeatedly insisted that the photographs were genuine.

Victory for public opinion

This is a great coup for public opinion that deserves to be cheered, Chang Ping, commentator and vice editor in chief of *Nandu Weekly*, said in the latest post on his blog.

Although the pro-tiger folks tried hard, mainstream public opinion concluded this a long time ago and pressed for an official declaration. Public opinion advanced the situation positively and affected the eventual government decision, Chang said.

When the tiger photo affair was finally revealed, public opinion quickly went beyond the pursuit of Zhou and pointed towards the possible manipulation by authorities behind the scene.

Netizens doubted that the authorities' real motive was to rivet public attention and boost tourism, Chang said.

However, while it is important to monitor and condemn what a person does, we do not want violence promoted on the Internet or to invade personal privacy without restriction, he said.

Chang said the wonderful thing was that public opinion focused on uncovering the truth while remaining sympathetic towards Zhou as a sacrificial lamb sent to slaughter by the local government.

In mid-November, a Netizen posted a Lunar New Year commemorative poster featuring a tiger that bore a striking resemblance to the one in Zhou's pictures. The discovery triggered widespread interest and may have led to the final truth.

German cyclists support the Games and kids

By Han Manman

Taking very simple traveling bags and pedaling 300 kilometers a day, two Germans spent 92 days riding bicycles from Greece to Beijing, through eight countries, to support the Beijing Olympic Games.

Olympic cradle starting point

Tobias Marner, 38, is a German engineer. Two years ago, when he was cycling around a lake in Germany, Marner suddenly hit upon the idea of cycling to the Olympic city. When he revealed his plan to friends, they all thought he was joking. Two years later, Marner fulfilled the promise with one addition, he found a friend, 40-year-old Hartmut Bogel, who worked as a nurse in a German hospital, to join him.

As volunteers of the Friedensdorf International (Peace Village) Oberhausen, an organization that is dedicated to helping children who are victims of war and poverty through medical care, Marner and Bogel also wanted to further raise awareness and increase donations to the village children through their journey.

"I hope the Olympic spirit will ease the kid's heartaches and help them regain common happiness,"



Tobias Marner (left) with Hartmut Bogel

Photo provide by Tobias Marner

Marner said.

Three months ago, Marner and Bogel started their journey from Olympia, the cradle of the ancient Olympics. They thought this would be the most meaningful starting point for their journey. They rode along the Danube to Bulgaria and then Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakstan and finally arrived in Beijing last week.

Accident concerns

For Marner and Bogel, the most unforgettable experience was the peaceful and helpful people everywhere, especially in China.

Whenever they arrived in a city, there would be netizens who had heard of their mission and had

come to see them and guide them.

"The biggest concern was accidents, since there are so many cars and trucks on the Chinese roads," Marner said, adding that the Chinese netizens' support and help made their trip safe and smooth.

During the trip, Marner and Bogel mostly slept in a tent. Marner said compared with sleeping in a hotel, he preferred staying at local people's homes where he could better learn their customs.

Getting to know China

Marner and Bogel's ride also attracted some German media attention. Before they started, a reporter asked Marner to comment on the issue regarding boy-

cotting the Beijing Olympic Games and he said the boycott was totally wrong. "The Beijing Olympics is a good opportunity for Westerners to know China and understand China. And the Olympics should bring together every country in the world and not exclude anyone," Marner said.

"It is called 'Olympic Games,' so it should be a Game and not a war or anything else," Marner said, adding, "I don't think that everything is perfect in China...as they are also not perfect in the Western world. Chinese people should pay attention to critics. Everybody in the world can learn through critics and improve."

1 kilometer, 1 yuan

During their trip to Beijing, Marner and Bogel heard about the Sichuan earthquakes. They then decided to make donations to the disaster area. "One kilometer, 1 yuan. How far we ride is how much we will donate," Marner said.

Marner left China yesterday to return to Germany to see his three daughters and his girlfriend. Bogel, true to form, will continue on by bicycle through Mongolia Ulan Bator to Russia (Lake Baikal) and there he will take the train to Moskau and then fly to Berlin.



Patrizia von Brandenstein

Photo provided by

Patrizia von Brandenstein

Oscar winner costumes a Tang-dynasty opera

By Gan Tian

The Opera House of the National Center of Performing Arts will see the opera *Tea - The Heart's Mirror* by world-famous Chinese composer Tan Dun at the end of this month. Patrizia von Brandenstein, who won an Oscar for Best Art Direction for the film *Amadeus* is designing the costumes for the opera in Beijing at present.

The German lady arrived in Beijing about 10 days ago. Now she is working with her Chinese associate Li Yuan in the designing room all day long. *Tea - The Heart's Mirror* introduces a love story between a princess of the Tang Dynasty and a Japanese monk through the description of the origin of the Chinese tea culture and the *Book of Tea* written by Lu Yu. She admitted she had read a lot of material on the Tang Dynasty after she got involved in the opera in 2005.

"I love that period - it was amazing, the paintings, the sculptures and the poetry," von Brandenstein said. "(Tan's opera) encompasses the natural world: water, mountains, gardens, stones and a life that is governed by nature."

In von Brandenstein's designs, the princess is wearing a glorious decoration on her head. She said this idea came from a Chinese fan she saw, and she combined the shape of the lotus and a leaf, which makes the princess's head dress look noble and dignified. Von Brandenstein drew all the garments on paper by hand at first. She collected the materials from markets all around the city. "Most of time there was a language problem," she said, but her Chinese associate helped her a lot.

The designer mentioned that costuming for an opera is different from costuming for a movie, but only "a little bit." Comparing her experience with designing garments for Hollywood movies, she said that she had to do all the make-up and dresses larger for the stage. "Because the size of the venue is bigger," she said.

Von Brandenstein predicted that she would finish all the designing work at the last minute because it was really a large task. Then she would fly back to New York and take a rest. However, though having a talent in designing costumes, she would never start a fashion line, simply because she loves her present work. The experience of working in a Chinese opera will give her more ideas for future designing projects. "It will become a part of my soul," she said.

Korean directors give plays a new face



Lady Macbeth focuses on the female psyche of a delirious heroine.

Photo provided by Korea Arts Management Service

By He Jianwei

Three representatives of South Korea's directorial arena bring their representative works to the Beijing stage from July 2 to 13 at the Oriental Pioneer Theater and the Nine Theater of the Beijing Chaoyang District Culture Center, showing their new dynamic interpretation of the plays, *Beautiful Youth*, *Woyzeck* and *Lady Macbeth*.

Park Keun-hyung, a young director and playwright, has had success with a more domestic play, *Beautiful Youth*, a tragic-comic study of common adolescent.

The father loses his job and does nothing the whole day long.

His son, a middle-school student, is a stigmatized youth, playing with hoodlums on the street. Both the father and the son feel lonely. They understand and love each other, but they hide their feelings.

"Adolescent problems are one of the critical social problems in South Korea, but plays seldom tackle the problem," Park said.

Georg Buchner's production *Woyzeck* is a breathtaking theatrical experience, but Do-Wan Im, found his true expression realized in the production of *Woyzeck*.

Im has been a professor at Seoul Institute of the Arts for the many years. His plays are

mostly drama based on realism and comedies.

He created a new dynamic interpretation of Buchner's original drama. "We analyzed the text to find the original's hidden potential while advancing a new language in physical theater using movement, objects, acting and make-up especially using chairs as a changeable metaphor, the performers both shape the dramatic space and reveal the character's emotional states," he said.

In his production there are 11 actors. Odd numbers seem to look unbalanced, but on the other hand, even numbers look stable

and present balance on the stage.

"Actually we thought that there should have been 13 actors on the stage. An odd number of actors means they are struggling to find the balance of the dynamism on the stage which will make the audience feel the tension because it is an attempt to keep the balance uneven," he said.

The last one is Han Tae-suk's *Lady Macbeth*, which is based on the fifth act of Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*. Han depicts the female psyche of a delirious heroine through organic props on stage like water and clay, which stresses sensibilities particular to women.

House of Switzerland moves to 798

By Han Manman

To serve the Swiss Olympic delegation and entertain its visitors during the Beijing Olympic Games, Switzerland started a one-month construction of its national house in Beijing on Tuesday.

The house, located in Dashanzi 798 Art Zone, will be open to the public for free from August 1, Switzerland's National Day, until August 24.

The main function of the house is to serve as a hub and meeting place for the Swiss Olympic team during the Games. In conjunction with the Swiss Confederation, the Swiss Olympic Association and other partners will use the house for receptions, client events, press con-

ferences and medal celebrations for winning athletes, Dante Martinelli, the ambassador of Switzerland to China said Tuesday.

The official House of Switzerland has been a fixture at the Olympic Games since the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan. The house in Beijing will be Switzerland's biggest national house overseas with a total area of 4,000 square meters.

The House of Switzerland will serve visitors with Swiss food and drink in its restaurant or lounge.

It will also display Swiss scenery and play Swiss folk music in the building, which includes a VIP zone, exhibition area and a room for presentations and conferences.

Various cultural and commercial events will be held during the 24-day exhibition. Musicians from Switzerland will entertain guests and visitors will have the chance to meet famous Swiss athletes, get autographs and attend medal ceremonies.

Visitors can learn how Swiss chocolate is produced and have the chance to win a free trip to Switzerland by participating in competitions, games, drawings and quizzes.

The House of Switzerland in Beijing gathers 20 Swiss partners from the public and private sectors. New product lines and creations of Swiss companies such as watches, Swiss army knives and chocolates will debut globally at the House of Switzerland.



Ambassador of Switzerland to China Dante Martinelli (right) received the key to 798 Art Center Tuesday, to symbolize the construction of the "House of Switzerland".

Photo provided by Switzerland Embassy



Items at the exhibition

Photo provided by Greek Embassy

Acropolis items come to China

By Han Manman

Greece's new international landmark – the New Acropolis Museum – will open to the public later this year. To prepare for its debut, the Hellenic House in Beijing is hosting a one-month exhibition to give locals a chance to preview the new collection.

Starting Wednesday, the exhibition highlights four of the most important findings in Greek

archaeological excavation history including the west frieze of the Parthenon, four Korai from the Archaic Period and 'The Kritios Boy' – the well known sculpture of a young athlete.

The exhibition presents 82 items selected from the hundreds of finds recovered during the seven-year excavation. All pieces highlight daily life in the ancient Athenian neighborhood. The col-

lection includes ancient cooking utensils, tableware from the men's symposium, objects used by women, children's toys and the small statues of gods for home worship.

A range of photos of the New Acropolis Museum, two video documentaries about its construction and the excavation records of the museum site will also be displayed.

The exhibition will be held until July 26.

Argentine office to court Chinese tourists



By Zhang Dongya

The government of Buenos Aires, Argentina, built its first office to popularize tourism from Asia in Beijing, Monday. Mauricio Macri, head of Government of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, and Cesar Mayoral, Argentine ambassador, attended the opening ceremony.

The country's traditions of soccer and tango are well known in China, and the tango performance at the ceremony was designed to show off the charm of Argentina's "Tango City."

The government of Buenos Aires said it hoped to take this opportunity to popularize the city's tourism market in China, Macri said.

The tourism office construction was spearheaded by Argentine Chinese effort.

The 2008 Olympic flame visited Buenos Aires for the first time in April. The torch relay included 80 people in its 13.8-kilometer tour throughout the city.

Photo by Tom Wang

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'That's Beijing' back, but under new editorial team

By Annie Wei

The increasing number of expat magazines and competition among them is expected to provide better quality and more interesting stories in the future.

Last month, *TimeOut* was held up for licensing issues, and True Run Media, which has produced *that's Beijing* since 2001, was forced to change its name to *The Beijinger*. China International Press owns the "that's" trademark and sold it to China Electricity Media, established by China Electric Power News.

According to a report in Jan-

uary this year, China Electric Media invested 10 million yuan to run the "that's" series together with China International Press.

The cooperation aimed to improve the magazines' leading position in cities like Beijing, Shanghai, the Changjiang triangle and Zhujiang triangle areas, where most foreign residents have gathered in the next two or three years, the article said.

The Beijinger's July issue has been placed in the normal spots like cafés and restaurants. The new *that's Beijing*, run under a new team pulled together by China Elec-

tricity Media, claims it will be seen on the street within a week.

An editor from the new editorial office has confirmed the information with *Beijing Today*, saying that the new editorial team consists of 10 people with the majority being foreign staff members.

Content of the new issue will follow the same format and style of what "that's" used to be, she said.

The editor said they started recruiting staff some months ago and are still looking for new employees.

Wang, in charge of the new "that's," refused to give comment

but said *that's Beijing* is published using its normal routine and readers can find it again at the usual venues on 5th or 6th of every month.

True Run Media dominates the expat publishing industry with a Web site for local guides, a series of traveling guide books, the new weekly *Agenda* brochures, magazine for expat kids and food recipes you can buy at April Gourmet, an expat supermarket.

There are many other free magazines that cater to expat readers and are advertisement free.

Event

Lecture: China's Land Policy and Rural Politics

Having himself been a rural official, renowned researcher and writer, Li Changping has spent many years studying the rural issues of China and advocating for the livelihood of the 800 million disadvantaged citizens. He will share his assessment of the past and current land policies and rural policies of the latest developments in a talk that will be in Chinese with English interpretation.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 9, 7:30-9:30 pm
Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9 am-6 pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

Film: And the Spring Comes

Set in an industrial Chinese town in the 1980s, *And the Spring Comes* follows the dreamy ambitions of opera star wannabe Wang Cailing. This unattractive devotee of Italian opera lives with her fellow factory workers yet clearly sees herself on a higher social plane. Beijing holds a promise of art and enlightenment, but Wang Cailing's attempts to enter this world result in painful rejection and complications in her relationships with her hometown inhabitants and the other misfits with whom she involves herself. Director Gu Changwei will be on hand post screening to discuss the film and answer questions from the audience.

Where: Yugongyishan, west courtyard, former site of Duan Qirui Government, Dongcheng District

When: July 6, 8 pm
Cost: 40 yuan, 20 yuan for students

Tel: 6404 2711

(By He Jianwei)

Volunteers are the backbone of hutong courtyard renovation



Conducting surveys is an important way for volunteers to know more about hutong lifestyle.

Photo provided by CHP

By Zheng Lu

The Beijing Traditional Courtyard Renovation Training Project has started to spread the idea that traditional architecture is an important component of the national culture and should be well-protected.

The project is carried out by the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Centre (CHP), which is a registered Chinese NGO that works at the grassroots level to assist local communities to preserve tangible and intangible local culture through training and capacity building. The statistics CHP surveyed in advance shows the lack of awareness and appropriate methods to renovate Chinese traditional courtyards among the residents.

Through the project, CHP will establish an Architects Society wherein professionals can brainstorm ways to combine traditional architectural

aesthetic values with practical functionality and shoot an experimental documentary film on courtyard renovation. It will capture and preserve the actual transformation process as well as explore the emotional process among residents constructing and maintaining their living space. The German-based Heinrich Boell Foundation provides the financial aid for the project.

In the activities CHP has advocated before, volunteers were the main force to achieve the goal. The Friends of Old Beijing was one of them. Through its volunteers, CHP helped residents to understand the value of Beijing's historic neighborhoods as well as providing them with practical information on what they can do to renovate courtyards and neighborhoods while preserving the essential historical qualities of

old Beijing.

Hu Xinyu, the executive director of CHP, said the centre now has more than 1,000 registered volunteers, 10 percent of whom are foreigners. Additionally, some foreign universities cooperate with CHP by sending willing personnel to China every year. "Many of the foreign volunteers tell us that the projects we do are important and they are very pleased to support us continually," Hu said.

Currently, CHP is seeking help in making documentary film on courtyard renovation. Volunteers with a background in filming and television production are welcomed. Volunteers with other abilities are also encouraged to assist.

"We will arrange volunteers according to each one's strong points," Hu said. Interested people can also attend other projects held by CHP.

7

Debate



Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



洋腔论见

文化差异的碰撞与融合



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7

Debate

BEIJING TODAY

Dangerous goods forbidden as subway security checks kick in



Beijing subway security checks tighten up.

CFP Photo

By He Jianwei

Dangerous items can no longer be taken into Beijing's subway stations, as all 93 stations started security checks last Sunday.

To ensure a safe Olympic Games in August and Paralympics in September, Beijing subways have put in place about 3,100 inspectors and 1,500 police officers who will work together with the inspectors, a spokesman for the Beijing Subway Operation Company, said.

After September 20, the end of the Paralympics, "the security checks will remain for a long time," Jia Peng, the spokesman of the Beijing Subway Operation Company, said.

Each station has four kinds of security inspection equipment to search for guns, ammunition, knives, explosives and flammable, radioactive, toxic or corro-

sive materials.

Packages

Large luggage will be checked by x-ray machines and smaller bags will be randomly inspected. The x-ray machine check takes about 15 seconds.

Some passengers will be checked by a hand-held wand, which takes 10 seconds.

Dogs

More than 30 dogs will be used for random inspections and another 30 are being trained.

The dogs will be on patrol around the subway station. If they smell a dangerous substance, they will stop in front of the passenger.

Liquids

Each subway station has security equipment to check liquids. As the passengers hold their bottles, the inspectors will scan them with an electronic wand. It takes four seconds.

Alcohol is still allowed on the subway; however, there is now an enforced limit of 2 kilograms.

"The passengers have choices. If they don't like the inspectors scanning their liquids, they can drink them on the spot," he said.

Eight dangerous items

The police department released a list of eight dangerous items that are not allowed into the subways.

The first item concerns guns, including pistols, rifles, tranquilizer guns and toy guns.

The second is explosives, including ammunition, bombs and fireworks.

The third is knives, including daggers, triple-edged knives and pocket knives.

The fourth is flammable material, including gasoline, butane, diesel fuel and over two-kilograms of *baijiu*.

The fifth is toxic chemicals, including mercury, cyanide and selenium powder.

The sixth is corrosive chemicals, including hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and battery acid.

The seventh is radioactive materials.

The last one on the list is other goods that are forbidden to be carried by passengers into China, like drugs and pornographic material.

Attention

Jia said passengers who refuse security checks or insist on transporting dangerous articles will be barred from the system or prosecuted.

Under Chinese law, passengers are banned from carrying dangerous materials onto public transport, including buses, subways, trains and aircraft. Offenders can be detained from five to 15 days.

Over half of banking outlets provide more foreign financial services

By Vinna Huang

Among more than 3,200 Beijing banking outlets, there are about 1,887 banking outlets that provide services in foreign currency, foreign cards and traveler's cheques.

Most importantly, currency exchange and foreign exchange quotations will be displayed both in Chinese and English.

Of all the banks, the Bank of China can exchange the largest number of different kinds of currencies, including US Dollars, Great Britain Pounds, Euros, Japanese Yens, Hong Kong Dollars, Macau Dollars, Taiwan Dollars, Canadian Dollars, Australian Dollars, Danish

Krones, Norwegian Kroner, Swedish, Philippine Pesos and Thai Bahts.

Besides Taiwan Dollars, a yuan exchange service is available.

Also, the Bank of China permits yuan transactions on an ATM; using Visa cards, Master cards, JCB cards, Diner's cards and American Express cards. Six types of American Express traveler's cheques will be serviced as well, allowing traveler's cheques to be cashed from American Express, TRAVELEX and Citi-Bank.

In the Fortune Plaza sub-branch of Citic Bank, almost every single Chinese character is translated into English.

The service hotline 95558 can provide English, Japanese, German, Russian, Spanish and Korean service.

Volunteers at Citi-Bank's head office can also provide French, Portuguese, Arabian, Serbian and Vietnamese language services.

To date, 85 percent of the banking outlets in Beijing can provide several basic personal foreign exchange transactions services.

Eighty percent of the ATMs can accommodate services like Visa cards and eight other types of foreign cards. Others can accept about five types of card transaction services on average.

During the Beijing Olympics



Banking service to expats to catch up.

CFP Photo

and Paralympics, there are about four persons per banking outlet in the key areas; some outlets have established multi-language remote-call support systems.

For more information, can contact the local bank hotline.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyng@ynet.com

Do you know of any other food markets like Sanyuanli that have a mixture of local and imported fruits and vegetables, Chinese foods and foreign foods?

One is in Zuojiazhuang, a neighborhood just off the Liangmahe and north of Sanlitun. Go north on Sanlitun and you will see a building with the sign. Another is in Chunxiu Lu, which is south from Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, cross Gongti Bei Lu, and turns into Gongti XiLu, where there are a lot of foreigners.

I am interested in Chinese instruments and want to find stores that sell guzheng. Do you know of any good places that sell Chinese instruments?

There are many places you might try in the Nanluoguxiang area, Xinjiekou street, Liulichang, Gulou of Dongcheng district and the Yonghegong area. If you are going to spend 1,000-2,000 thousand or even 4,000 yuan on a guzheng, you should not only know the best places to buy one, but also know the style. It is worth paying a small fee to an expert to help you check out the instrument beforehand and avoid making an expensive and painful mistake.

I am going to Beijing very shortly and want to find a really good and easy-to-use map of the city, one that has an A-Z style that I can search and then zoom in or out to get my bearings.

You can buy a decent fold-out street map at the airport with both pinyin and English. It is at the tourist counter and costs about 10 yuan. It works for most people and it also has an index of major streets. Alternatively, there are guide books.

Someone suggested that I should drink wine instead of beer as it would be the healthier option. Do you know which is better?

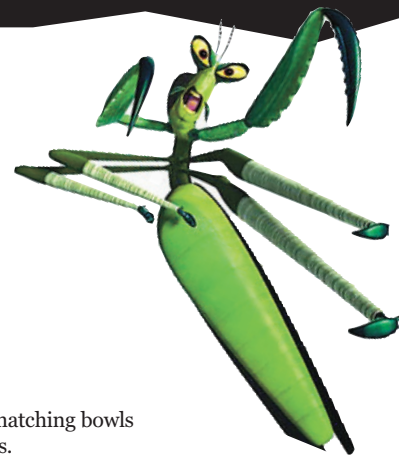
Many health research articles have pointed out that a small amount of wine every day is good for you. You can find more scientific research on the subject by using Google. *Beijing Today* would like to provide you some advice from the standpoint of Chinese traditional medicine and say it depends on your body type. You can pay a visit to Guoyitang, a hospital run by Beijing Chinese traditional medicine university southeast of Changhongqiao, third ring road. Doctors with many years of study and research in the field are quite accommodating there.

(By Bai Jingnan)



The controls around Po the

The very "Chinese" and "not so Chinese"



Very Chinese

Six Chinese philosophies from "Kung Fu Panda"

1. The universe evolves from physical form, but yet the physical form originates from formless existence

When our hero Po receives the coveted scroll of martial arts scripture, he finds nothing on it except his own reflection. From seemingly nothing, he relies on the power inside himself. Then his inner strength is revealed and he beats the vengeful snow leopard Tai Lung.

The Tao moves in repetitive cycles, flowing unceasingly, and in this way, gives rise to the endless flourishing of life. The function of the Tao is weak and humble. The myriad of things under heaven are generated from Being. And Being arises from Nothing. Nothing is the substance of the Tao, and Being is its function. In order to achieve the realm of the Tao, we must first reconcile ourselves with non-action: not engaging in affairs of the world, no intellectualizing, no-knowledge, no-desires, no ego and selflessness.

2. Teach students in accordance with their aptitude.

This is a famous sentence from Confucius which remains relevant in modern society. Glutinous Po is a zero at kung fu. He cannot even do the basic moves. This presents Master Shifu with a monumental task. One day, the master finds Po eating food in the kitchen. The panda climbs up to a high point in the room with no difficulty. Shifu finally sees his strengths and starts teaching him the art of kung fu through Po's method of grabbing food.

3. There are no accidents.

This is a foreordination theory from Chinese Buddhism. Master Oogway taught this theory to Master Shifu to help him see that Po can beat Tai Lung.

4. Fool's haste is no speed.

Everything in the world has its own growing cycle. Master Oogway told Shifu not to force the peach tree to grow. Just wait. People cannot change the nature of the material, but can make it grow better through patience and care.

5. Yin Guo (Causality recycling, or cause and effect)

This is deeply expressed in the film. Master Oogway wants to meet Shifu and tell him Tai Lung will escape. Shifu doubts this and sends Duck to check the security of the jail. But his visit gives Tai Lung the means to escape. Master Oogway's prophecy comes true. This is causality recycling.

6. The tricks of playing politics

In Chinese, it is a guileful method to play tricks through politics and power. Master Oogway is very good at it. When he selects the Dragon Warrior, he does not choose from the four strong ones around him, but chooses Po, who fell from the sky.

This is balance. Master Oogway always maintains this attitude. The four's abilities were similar and they may have fought amongst themselves.



Salute to kung fu movies

1. Snatching bowl

Shifu shows Po how to practice kung fu by snatching bowls from him. A technique seen in Jackie Chan films.

2. Chopstick kung fu

The chopstick is one of the most quintessentially Chinese utensils. Using it to practice kung fu is wonderful. In the film, people around the table use it to fight.

3. Bruce Lee

There are five master hands in *Kung Fu Panda* – tiger, crane, monkey, snake and mantis. They all deliver kicks similar to Bruce Lee.

4. Snuffing candles with a palm

One swipe of the palm snuffs out all the candles, which is magical to see in the film.

5. Flying up a wall

Flying up to the top of or along the side of a wall is a common scene in any action kung fu film these days. It seems that all the five master hands in this movie learned it from *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

6. Using ceramic vats to practice kung fu

There are many action scenes in *Kung Fu Panda* that mirror Jackie Chan movies. The large ceramic vat scene is from the Jackie Chan film, *Old Wine in a New Bottle*. It is a kung fu technique that teaches balance.

7. Dian Xue (skill of acting on acupoints)

It is the special and unique kung fu method used in the Chinese Wuxia genre of fiction.

8 Tai chi

Oogway's several tai-chi action scenes are reminiscent of Jet Li in his movie *Fearless*.

Other authentic details

Mahjong

It was evident that Hollywood scriptwriters put significant effort into recognizing Chinese customs in the movie. I admire their study of Chinese culture. Some references are very local as Po's father says to him in one scene, "I inherited the restaurant from my dad, as he inherited from his dad, who inherited it from his dad, who won it in a game of Mahjong."

– Yao Jia

Landscape of China

Familiar symbols of Chinese culture can be found sprinkled throughout the movie such as the scroll, Han fu, bamboo shades, swords, archways, temples, palaces, noodles, tofu, firecrackers and even the patterns on the porcelain. Most impressive of all is the embedding of traditional Chinese Mountain-Water art style: The rustle of falling leaves in a distant utopia, the white clouds encircling the tranquil forest, all culminating to form a beautiful eastern painting within DreamWork's 3D world. Rumor has it that DreamWorks used the landscape of Lijiang, Yunnan Province, as a model for "Kung Fu Panda."

– Chengdu Daily



Controversy of "Kung Fu Panda"



By Sun Jina

There was a cyclone of attention when *Kung Fu Panda* started screening in China. Locals who loved it said it was a love letter written by director John Stevenson of DreamWorks. But some found it completely humiliating. *Beijing Today* takes a deeper look at the big panda movie.

Chinese question the movie

Why are Po's eyes green?

The eyes of the American panda are green, which actually feels rather evil. Come to think of it, perhaps that's the reason why I never liked that panda. A real panda has black eyes. The Americans must have had some rationale for using green, but I don't understand it.

— Ye Kuangzheng

Can a fat panda become a kung fu master so easily and quickly?

According to our Chinese belief, most kung fu skills have to be learned from the ground up with the beginner enduring years of hardship before becoming skilled. The Americans however, seem to think that if you have ambition and belief, dreams will come true. If this panda can change from some dummy who can't even climb a wall into a kung fu master, how is it when he tries to save his master that he cannot even manage a few steps?

— Lisha Cool, netizen

Too much influence from Hong Kong films

There is too much Cantonese in the film. "Shifu" sounds like "Xi fu", meaning "wife" in Chinese, probably because the film-makers are almost all from Hong Kong. The dubbing of Jackie Chan's voice is unclear.

— Wang Xiaoyuan



Locals laughed the loudest when ...

1. Po called his master "Shifu." It is used in Pinyin.
2. When Po's father tells the history of their restaurant and said he got it when his grandfather won it in a game of Mahjong.
3. When all the villagers escaped, Po's father wanted to tell Po some important things. Everyone thought he would reveal why a duck could have a panda as a son but all he revealed was that there was no secret ingredient in the secret ingredient soup.
4. All the warriors in the village are competing when Po crashes into the ground and is selected best warrior.
5. When Po listens to Tigress while receiving acupuncture from Mantis and he makes several painful, funny faces, Tigress thinks they are a sign that he is not being serious.
6. The whole movie portrayed an old Chinese saying "To the people, the essence of what is most important is food." It all started from a simple bun – Shifu had to use the temptation of stuffed buns to train Po to become a kung fu master. The final battle scene with Tai Lung is in reality, Po using his old method of trying to get some food for himself.



Laureate's quest to save the planet

NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF
GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS

MAKING GLOBALIZATION WORK

JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ



By Charles Zhu

Nobody is more fervent in the crusade to "save the planet" than Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize winner in economics. In his third book, *Making Globalization Work* (358pp, Norton, US \$26.95), Stiglitz tries to pinpoint the pros and cons of globalization, which he defines as "the closer economic integration of the countries of the world."

Stiglitz won the Nobel Prize for his work in market failures typical of developed economies. The Stiglitz-Shapiro model explains why wages cannot be sufficiently flexible to maintain continuous full employment.

Stiglitz believes that the post-war trade regimes – GATT, WTO, NAFTA – have been heavily tipped in favor of rich countries. These countries, on the strength of their greater technical know-how and economic power, try hard to overwhelm the poor. They push hard

for liberalization of trade in industrial goods and technical services while they retain agricultural subsidies and non-tariff barriers.

The economist suggests a new paradigm for international trade agreements. He proposes reciprocity among equals and differentiation between countries based on socio-economic development. He argues that the rich countries should open their markets to the poor countries without demanding reciprocity in market access and without forcing their own environmental standards.

Stiglitz is severely critical of the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights. He said it has "imposed on the entire world the dominant intellectual property regimes of the US and Europe."

The author said rich countries rob the poor of their natural resources. He suggests "green" accounting methods allow for depletion and environmental

"externalities." One of the mechanisms he proposes is to levy a carbon tax to slow down the emission of carbon dioxide.

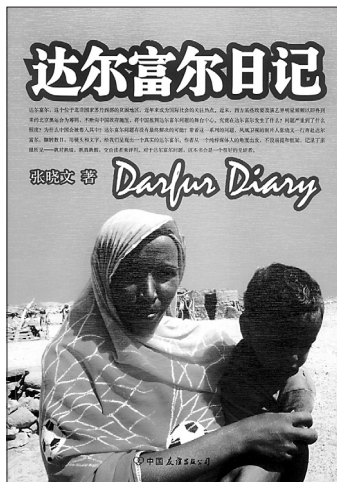
However, Stiglitz does not forget the debt of the poor countries. "Developing countries borrow too much – or are lent too much – and in ways which force them to bear most or all of the risk of subsequent increases in interest rates, fluctuations in the exchange rate, or decreases in income," he said.

His solution is a "new global contract." He hopes to minimize the damage corporations do to society and maximize their contributions by strengthening corporate social responsibility, preventing monopolies, increasing the scope of liability for environmental damage and creating WTO rules against unfair competition.

Ever optimistic, Stiglitz continues to seek ways to cure the world of its ills and weaknesses.

Another voice on Darfur

A Chinese journalist's journey



By He Jianwei

Conflicts in Darfur, a province of western Sudan, have been a major focus for two years of the Western media.

As the first Chinese journalist to work in Darfur, Zhang Xiaowen, a senior producer of Talk With World Leaders on Phoenix TV, recently released her *Darfur Diary* (210pp, China Friendship Publishing Company, 28 yuan), a collection of interviews and experiences in Darfur from August to November last year.

Before she went to Darfur, Zhang interviewed Liu Guijin, the country's envoy to Darfur, and Mirghani Mohamed Salih, the Sudanese ambassador. Both said the majority of the people in Darfur are engaged in farming and animal husbandry, and they have suffered from

years of drought, water shortage and tribal conflicts.

"The ambassador asked us to go to Darfur, because he said the media has only reported on it with one voice. He told us, 'You need to go there to see the real Sudan and know what Darfur looks like,'" Zhang said.

On October 16, 2007, Zhang and her colleagues started their trip to Sudan from Hong Kong airport. During her trip, Zhang interviewed officials such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She also interviewed the leader of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which is the armed wing of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

She visited the villages and refugee camps and talked with the locals to

learn what happened. "People living in the villages have a worse life than those living in the refugee camps. The farmers don't have clean water or sufficient food," she said.

In the last chapter, Zhang juxtaposed two interviews: one with the leader of the SPLA and another with a girl in a refugee camp.

The leader wanted to give stability and peace life to the Sudanese, but the girl suffered from disease due to the camp's limited medical treatment.

Zhang collected different voices from the people who live in Darfur to show "it is not for us to argue who's right and who's wrong. We must do what we can for them to have a peaceful life rather than a poor one," she said.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

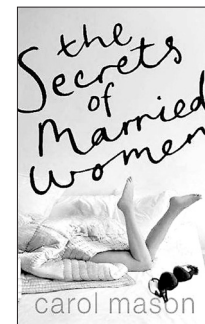
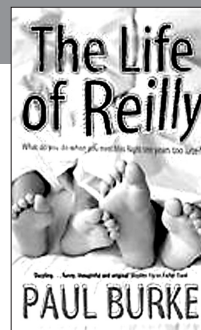
Seeing Me Naked
By Liza Palmer, 288pp, Hodder Paperbacks, 90 yuan

Elisabeth is still involved with her childhood sweetheart – a journalist whom she barely sees anymore, let alone trusts. Despite working for one of LA's hottest restaurants, her five-year plan to run her own patisserie has morphed into an eleven-year plan to nowhere. But then she meets Daniel, who finally gives her a taste of how incredible her future really could be – if only she could drop everything and let him see her as she really is. But can Daniel ever be more than just the flavor of the month? Elisabeth is about to find out.



The Life of Reilly

By Paul Burke, 256pp, Hodder & Stoughton, 90 yuan
Sean Reilly seems to have his life in order: gorgeous wife, beautiful house and lucrative career as a voice-over artist. But he craves the romance and affection he no longer receives from his wife. He wonders, that once married, women want men to change whereas men never want women to change. Lucy Ross, 'caught single' after breaking up with her long-term boyfriend, is also looking for romance when she meets Sean, whom she does not want to change. Is it time for Sean to reorganize his life?



The Secrets of Married Women

By Carol Mason, 352pp, Hodder Paperbacks, 90 yuan
Jill and Rob are happily married – until they discover it is Rob's fault they cannot have kids. It is not the end of the world for Jill. She is just happy to have a trustworthy husband who loves her deeply and presses all the right buttons in the bedroom. But Rob has gone off sex and refuses to discuss it. In fact, all communication between them has come to an infuriating halt, and Jill just yearns for a bit of fun.

(By Zhang Dongya)

Get ready for Internet everywhere

Wi-Fi in six areas

The Beijing Wicity Project was initiated by Chinacom, a major wireless service provider. As part of the first phase of construction, the city has six areas with wireless Internet access.

Current areas include most points along Second and Third Ring Road, CBD, Financial Street, Zhongguancun, Wangjing and Yizhuang. Beijing has more wireless Internet access points than any other city in the country.

During the Olympic Games, residents and tourists in listed areas can access wireless Internet for free from their laptops, PDAs or cell phones.

Portable office

Chen Yu, 25, a graphic designer, works out of his house. "I have to work remote, because it's too expensive to get a studio," he said.

When he watched *The Bourne Identity* and saw the characters using the Internet from anywhere, he imagined what that might be like.

"I had to become an Otaku because I work from home, but it gets in the way of me making friends or expanding my relationships with my clients," he said.

With citywide access to wireless Internet, he can meet and talk with his clients at any coffee shop or restaurant. "It will save time for both of us. All I have to do is carry my laptop with me," he said.

Blog anywhere

Wen Zhang, 24, works in the Brazilian embassy. Most of her day is spent in the office, so being able to write and post photos from work is important to her.

"On my way to the office or back home, I want to observe my surroundings and reflect on life. However, when I arrive at the office or back home, I always forget about what I was thinking on my way. I wish I could sit down and post to my blog whenever I feel like it," she said.

When she heard that Beijing has several places that provide wireless Internet access, Wen said, "If I feel inspired, I can post to my blog immediately. I can also share pictures with my friends as soon as I snap them."

Always-ready for net calls

Long distance phone calls can be very expensive, especially for Joyce Wu, 28, a magazine worker from Taiwan Province.

Although Wu works in Beijing, most of her family and friends live in Taiwan. She said she usually calls her family and friends using Skype, a voice-over-IP program which offers better rates than land-line and mobile phones.

"If Beijing becomes a wireless city, I can call home more frequently. I can even call while shopping to show friends what I am looking at," she said.

Online gaming for all

Rachel Zhao, 26, is a PlayStation Portable (PSP) fan who works in commerce.

"I get bored quickly when I play video games by myself for an hour, so I am always looking for people to play against," she said.

"Playing with others is more exciting. With the rise of wireless Internet, it is getting easier to find people to play with, since many young people own a PSP," she said.

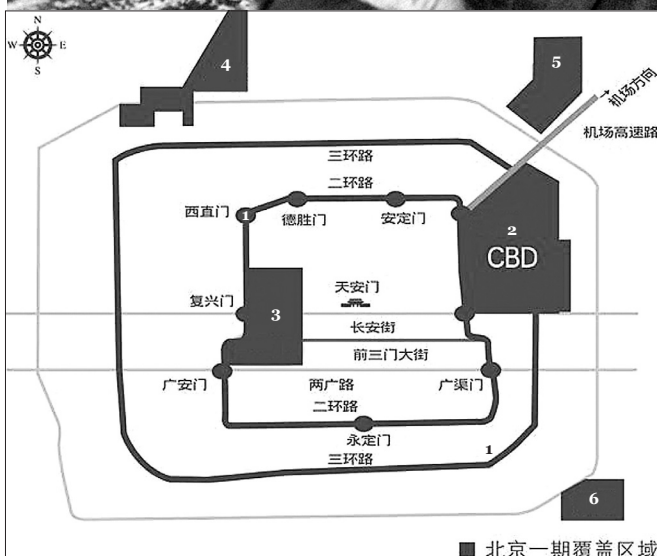
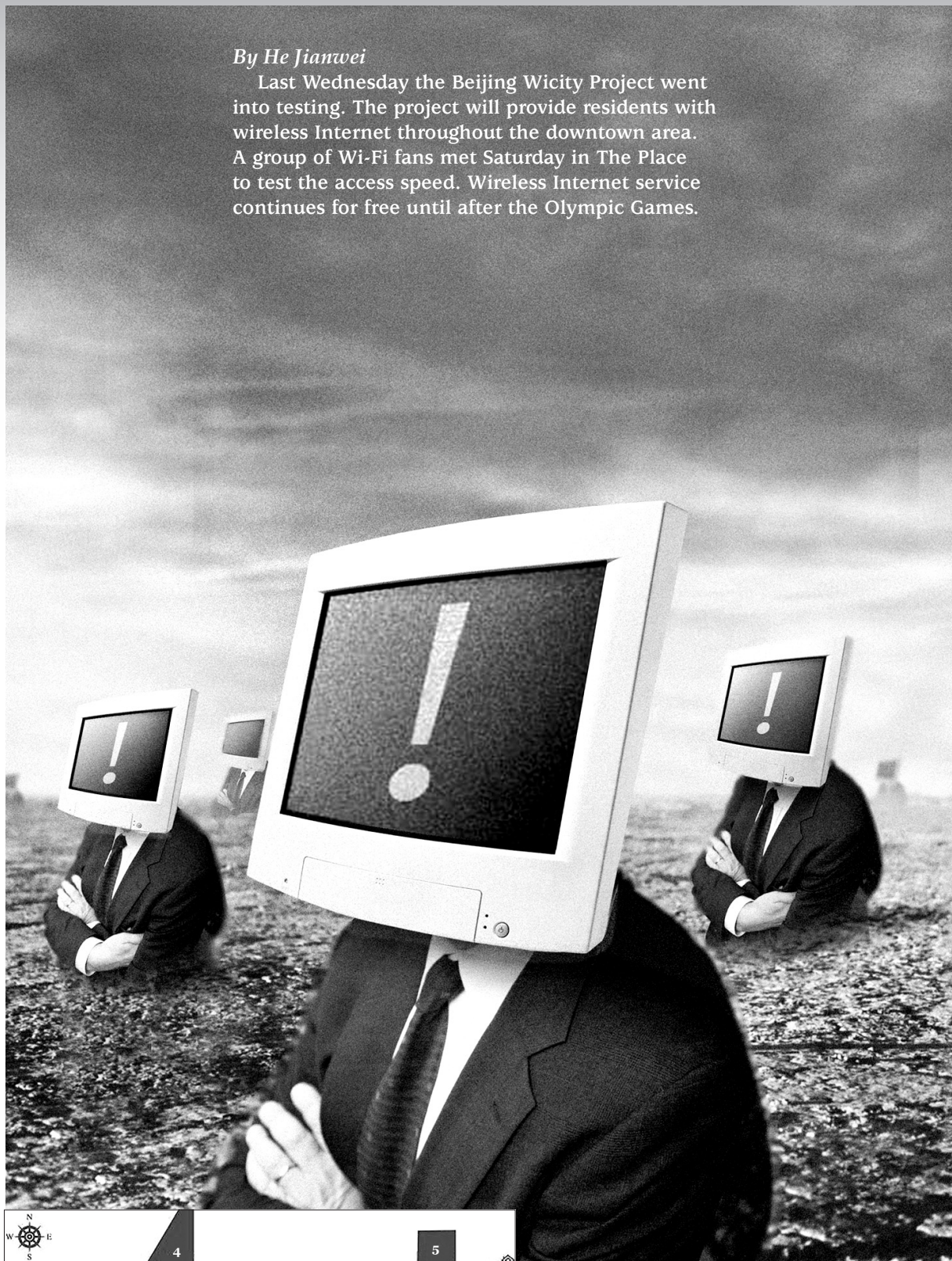
Test results

A group of Wi-Fi enthusiasts tested the speed of the network last Saturday. Dong Zi, the initiator of the test, said it seemed responsive when used to browse Web sites, but was not stable enough to stream video.

Speeds ranged from 150 to 200 kilobits (18 to 25 kilobytes) per second, Dong said.

By He Jianwei

Last Wednesday the Beijing Wicity Project went into testing. The project will provide residents with wireless Internet throughout the downtown area. A group of Wi-Fi fans met Saturday in The Place to test the access speed. Wireless Internet service continues for free until after the Olympic Games.



1. Second and Third Ring Road
2. CBD
3. Financial Street
4. Zhongguancun
5. Wangjing
6. Yizhuang

CFP Photo

Kung Fu Panda spreads

panda monium

By Li Jing

The panda is the Official Mascot of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. It is also a symbol of the animal protection movement. Pandas are universally loved for their mounds of famous black and white fur.

As the national treasure, they are more eye-catching than other animals in China. With the screening of "Kung Fu Panda," pandas have become even more popular. *Beijing Today* aims to add to the panda-monium with a variety of promotional products.



Panda bag

The bag is produced by Hong Kong Brand's Morn Creations. To raise the awareness of animal protection, the company manufactures a series of heart-warming animal-themed bags and accessories. The Panda bag is the most popular product among the animal collection, which also includes the rabbit and dog bag series. The products are all given a fresh, witty yet stylish spin.

Available: yesstyle.com
Price: 375 yuan



Panda skillet

This non-stick skillet is perfect when you are preparing a delectable dish. The panda face is detailed on the outside of the pan. The glass lid also sports a panda face.

Available: fredflare.com
Price: 586 yuan



Kung Fu Panda plush buddy Po

Po, the ambitious panda, who learns kung fu, may protect you with his mighty fists of fur while you are asleep. It's the ultimate bedtime Kung Fu defender. This Kung Fu Panda plush toy is very soft and cuddly.

Available: Stellar International Cineplex, East End, F/5, Jinyuan Shopping Mall, Haidian

Price: 115 yuan

Panda purse

This cute zippered purse features the appealing eyes of a panda. With black and white as the dominant colors, it is appealing and adorable. The pulltab is designed to look like bamboo leaves.

Available: yesstyle.com
Price: 172 yuan



Swarovski Pandas

The 2008 annual edition of Mother and Cub is designed by Heinz Tabertshofer with the two pandas in clear and Black Diamond crystal, with the eyes in Jet crystal. Mother panda is produced with a matt crystal bamboo accent. The mother and cub pandas are two separate pieces that can be displayed together or individually. The edition is limited to this year and available only in one color version. The product is exclusive to Swarovski members.

Available: Swarovski stores in town
Price: 4,200 yuan

Kung Fu Panda sports hat

This is said to be the favorite of Kung Fu Panda fans and you can wear it wherever you go. It is a great sun blocker and especially fashionable this summer.

Available: Stellar International Cineplex, East End, F/5, Jinyuan Shopping Mall, Haidian

Price: 99 yuan



Artist Zhao Bandi's 2008 Mascot

The mascot is made up of five baby pandas in the Olympic ring colors of blue, yellow, black, green and red. Each color has a special meaning: blue means ascendance, yellow, sharing, black, persistence, green, health and red, passion. The "Panda Man" Zhao Bandi designed the series of colorful panda plush toys especially for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Available: Bandi Panda, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
Price: 139 yuan each, 499 yuan per package

Fashionable T-shirts

The T-shirts are printed on the front with design products and on the back with both English and Chinese illustrations. All the design products were shown during China International Fashion Week, which triggered a "fashion earthquake" and paved a fashion road for artist Zhao.

Available: Available: Bandi Panda, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
Price: 139 yuan



Photo by Li Jing

Photo provided by China Film Stellar Theater Train

By Gan Tian

Taiwan's cuisine draws from the best of its neighbor's cooking. After World War II, it absorbed styles from Zhejiang, Hunan, Guangdong, Yunnan, Sichuan provinces, as well as from Beijing and Shanghai.

Finding Taiwan restaurants in Beijing is a bit of a challenge, but well worth the effort. Each dish combines local ingredients with a fusion of Chinese cooking styles. *Beijing Today* has a list of some of the best Taiwanese restaurants in town, so get ready for some meatballs, stinky tofu, eel with yellow noodles and stewed ground pork.

A fusion of Chinese flavors



The Taiwanese Rice Wine with Shrimp
Photo provided by Double

Before and after dinner

By Gan Tian

Fanqian Fanhou is in a 600-year-old building. Its decor highlights elements both modern and traditional: a mix of red and purple chairs and Western tablecloths under traditional wooden roof beams.

Its name means "before and after dinner" and no matter when you arrive to dine, plan on spending a lot of time at Fanqian Fanhou. The windows offer a scenic view, but not enough to draw the diners' attention away from the indoor flowers.

Homemade Taiwanese Sausage, priced at 26 yuan, is worth trying. It is sweet and smooth, but not too oily. The sausage is cut into small pieces and served with a side of garlic. The dish does not last long – not because the portions are small, but because it is that good.

All diners recommended Dabancai, Vegetables Served as a Cold Dish. The serving size is more than two people can handle, and it contains cookies tossed in by the chef. The cookies make for a crispy surprise when chewing greens.

The Pepper Shrimps, priced at 46 yuan, are served in a wooden tub. Despite being fried, the shrimps are hardly greasy. Their taste is spicy and fresh.

Some diners complained that the service is slow. "Sometimes the waitress brings a dish and we end up finishing it before the second arrives," Yue Zhonglu, a Fanqian Fanhou fan, said. "Still, I love it here. The restaurant is great if you want to learn something about Taiwanese cuisine."

Fanqian Fanhou

Where: A13, Gucangqun, Nanxincang International Plaza, 22 Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6409 6978, 6405 9598



The Pepper Shrimps

Double your surprises

By Gan Tian

Double, a Taiwanese restaurant near Yansha, is named for "Dinner and Dancing." Yang Ankang, the manager's son, said restaurants with a dance floor on the ground level and a dining area upstairs are popular in other countries. They named the restaurant "Double" to convey its dual nature to local patrons.

The owner Madam Yang also owns Kitchen Number Four in Jianwai SOHO. She decided to open Double after many diners complained about the parking situation at the end of last year.

Three-sauce Chicken is both salty and sweet, and is designed to appeal to southerners. "Northern diners may not enjoy it as much," Ankang said. The dish earns its name from the three cups of seasonings used by the chef: one each of vinegar, rice wine and oil. It is the only dish made with vinegar.

The Taiwanese Rice Wine with Shrimp is ill-suited to summer dining. Yang said it was designed for diners to warm up during winter. The shrimp are put into hot Taiwanese rice wine. The dining experience is very different in summer and winter.

Hakkanese Stir-Fried Dish and Taiwanese Fried Bee Hoon are its most popular dishes. Bee Hoon is a dish of seasoned noodles.

The frequent diners hail from surrounding office buildings, though local performers grace Double from time to time. "Taiwanese cuisine is becoming more and more popular, and Double is trying to lead the way," Yang said.

Double

Where: 16 Nongzhanguan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6593 8911

Daddy I am home

By Gan Tian

Huzi Laodie, or Mustache Daddy, a restaurant located in Xidan, offers Taiwanese food in addition to its Western fare. Though the restaurant has been around for a long time, it only recently came to prominence with the latest Taiwan craze.

Its milk tea with pearls should be any diner's first drink. Many diners said its taste is almost identical to milk tea in Taiwan. The drink is served in a large cup, and makes a great companion to Jiang Muya, Ginger Duck.

All the diners said they were impressed with the environment. Beneath the glass tables are cards bearing sweet words – if romance is your thing, you can try your hand at writing your own. Maybe your lover will find it.

"The drinks are all served in big cups. You can bring your laptop here and enjoy a sunny afternoon," Xue Huairui, a diner, said. It seems more like a cafe than a restaurant.

Huzi Laodie

Where: 98 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District
Tel: 6601 5051



Orange juicy without sugar

5 Friday, July 4

Exhibition
Russian Contemporary Show

The joint exhibition of Russian artists features Anna Sokolova, Anton S. Kandinsky, Blue Noses, Evfrosina Lavrukina, Petr Axenoff, Revision, Sergei Kiryuschenko, Tyminko and Mitrichenka.

Where: HAN JI YUN Contemporary Space, A 1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am - 7 pm, until July 17

Admission: Free



Tel: 6434 0266

Tian Liusha Solo Exhibition

Where: Cocolan Gallery, 70 Guanyintang Art Avenue, Wangsiying, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am - 6 pm, until July 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 6720 1335

Sven Druchl Solo Exhibition

Where: Michael Schultz Gallery Beijing, 319 East End Art, Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until July 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 5093

Movie**Zidane, Un Portrait du 21e Siècle**

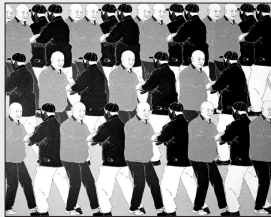
Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

6 Saturday, July 5

Exhibition
China Pose - Cui Qiang
Solo Exhibition

Where: TS1 gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until July 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 1588

Unreleased Space - Wang Jiazeng
Solo Exhibition

The series "Industrial Diary" describes Wang's experiences as a worker. Wang wanted to convey his feelings and awareness by painting his background - factory, a familiar and strange place.

Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9 am - 6 pm, until August 1

Upcoming**Concert****Concert Opera Fidelio**

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra

When: 7:30 pm, July 6-9

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 6755

99 Tents and Dreams - 2008 Beijing Left-Right International Art Festival

Where: Left-Right Art museum, Left-Right International Art Zone, Fuhacun Bei, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until July 6

Admission: Free

Tel: 8050 8215

Struggle Inside - Liu Yiaoxian
Solo Exhibition

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Daily 8 pm - midnight, until July 31

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6959 8343

7 Sunday, July 6

Exhibition
Psi Girls - Susan Hiller
Solo Exhibition

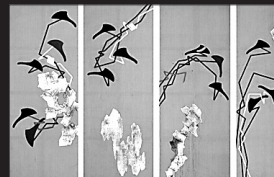
Psi Girls, first exhibited in 1999, is an installation of five simultaneous video projections, each a montage of brief sequences from various popular films that figure into an act of telekinesis performed by young girls.

Where: Joy Art, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until August 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9788

**Discord in Space - Li Sa**
Solo Exhibition

Li Sa's work is taut with multi-leveled conflict: life versus death, urban versus rural, natural versus mechanical, peaceful versus violent and ancient versus contemporary.

Where: Onemoon Contemporary Art, Ditan Park, Andingmen Wai, Dongcheng

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until July 27

Admission: Free

Tel: 6427 7748

Mind + Soul,**Sensibility x Sensation**

The inaugural exhibition

features the works of Joe Diebes from New York and Hung Keung from Hongkong. The pieces of both artists were inspired directly by their respective visions of China and the Yuanfen space.

Where: Yuanfen new media art space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until July 31

Admission: Free

Movie**And the Spring Comes**

Set in an industrial Chinese town in the 1980s, *And the Spring Comes* follows the dreamy ambitions of opera star wannabe Wang Cailing.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie, Yugong Yishan, 3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Xicheng

When: 8 pm

Admission: 20-40 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in August**Concert****Night of Mozart -**
Symphony Concert of
Mozart Classics

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 1

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Concert by Liu Yang and
Other Young Artists

Who: Liu Yang and China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 4

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Hungarian Dances -
Waltz and World Classics

Who: Beijing Symphony Orchestra

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 26

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

China Philharmonia

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 31

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Drama**Rock Action Musical****Monkey King**

Who: Sight, Sound and Action

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: August 9-17

Admission: 150-1,100 yuan

Tel: 6835 4455

Dance**Night of Latin America**

Who: Brazilian Samba Troupe, Andean Band from Peru and Colombia Dance Troupe

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 1-2

Admission: 60-880 yuan

Tel: 5165 6039

La Sylphide and Napoli

Who: China National Ballet

Where: National Grand Theater, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, August 9-10

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Flamenco Sabores

Who: Sara Baras

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, August 20

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 5165 6039

Red Detachment of Women

Who: China National Ballet

Where: National Grand Theater, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, August 22-23

Admission: 80-500 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

Puppy slippers

a shoe-in to good health

Origin

The inventor of the slipper was a Japanese matron named Nakazawa Nobuko. She was busy with housekeeping everyday and had to look after her ill mother-in-law. Day after day, she was under pressure. She became fatter and fatter. Frustrated, Nobuko decides to lose weight, but she had no time to go to a fitness club. She thought about other ways to shed pounds while doing housework. One day, she tried to pull something down from a very high shelf that she could not reach. She was forced to stand on her tiptoes. Suddenly she was struck with an idea. When she stood on her toes, she had to lift her hips and contract her abdomen. She realized that if she cut the heels off her slippers, she would always have to stretch in this manner to reach such items. Nobuko did this and created a new pair of mini-slippers for herself. She wore her new creation every day and she began to lose weight from the constant stretching.

She made copies of the unique footwear and gave them to her friends, who loved them and the reputation of the new slippers spread. The young entrepreneur decided to set up her own company and applied for a patent. She named her new product the "Puppy Love Slipper."

By Sun Jina

Losing weight is a topic that never gets old. If you are a slave to fashion diets and exercise regimes, the methods of losing weight changes every week. *Beijing Today* touches on one idea that may spark your interest. It involves wearing small slippers.

The shape

The slippers look like they are for children at first sight. They are about half the length of an adult shoe. Because the slippers are so short, it looks like the heel is not there. The front section is low and the back is high, closely resembling mini- high-heeled shoes. The design forces the wearer to use her toes when walking. The special design of this shoe helps wearers lose weight!

Q&A

Q: How long do I need to wear them everyday?

A: From a half hour to a whole day. It depends. If you wear them for a short time, you can become healthier through stimulation of your sole. For longer periods, you tense up your lower body muscles, which can lead to weight loss.

Q: How long should I wear them to get thinner?

A: The suggested time is three to five hours daily. If you keep it up for three months, your body will improve gradually. People can lose from 1 to 20 kilograms depending on their metabolism. Persons with a strong metabolism see significant effects by wearing the product when standing or doing housework. When you reach the healthy weight you desire, keep wearing the slippers. You will not continue losing weight but simply maintain the weight you have attained. Even if you have a good appetite, you will not gain more weight easily if you keep wearing the magic slippers.

Q: How long should I wear them to cure soreness and back pain?

A: At least a half to one hour everyday. It is a natural cure for such pain. After this period of time, you must continue to wear the slippers. Depending on your condition, at first you may experience more pain but that is a sign that you are on the right track.

Q: What about improving constipation?

A: Wear the slippers at least a half to one hour daily. Usually you will notice positive effects after about one month. Some people in a week. If your situation is severe, it could take up to three months to see change.

Q: If I sit and wear the slippers, will they still be beneficial?

A: This kind of shoe is quite different from others. When you sit, it can push the concave arch of your foot and stimulate your sole points. So when you sit, it is good to wear them, but you get much better results when you are standing or walking.

Q: What kind of person is not suitable for this product?

A: Both men and women can wear this type of shoe. But if you are injured by twisting your spine, have spurs, bad balance or are pregnant, you should not wear these slippers. After pregnancy and when your doctor gives you permission to exercise, then you can wear them.

Q: Could these slippers ever have a bad effect on my body?

A: Puppy Love Slippers are the only emaciating slippers which are approved by accredited physicians. If used correctly, there will not be any negative effects.

The function

1. Easy body beautification. The special angle and design of the slipper firms the abdomen, hips and waist. It can build up the muscles of the lower body, eliminating fat. Worn daily, the shoes can lift the buttock line and tone the lower body.

2. Good blood circulation. The design of the shoe with no heel makes the body's gravity sink, stimulating the second heart (sole reflection belt), which can promote blood circulation and boost metabolism.

3. Treating soreness and back pain. The no heel design makes your body and waist naturally straight when you wear it, which helps adjust for bad posture and reduce soreness and back pain.

4. Improving digestive system. Again, the no heel design, through sole stimulation, can alleviate psychological pain, urinary incontinence, climacteric disorder and aid in recovery from postpartum physical disability. It also can stimulate the enterogastric treatment reflection areas. Going up on your tiptoes stresses the anus muscles' deflection. The relaxation of the left and right buttocks can improve constipation.

The principle

The basic principle of Puppy Love Slippers is to make you walk on your tiptoes, which can slim down and firm up your heels, knees and legs by naturally contracting the abdomen and lifting the hips. This action also promotes good posture and helps the body avoid curvature of the upper back and lower back pain, as well as promoting good blood circulation. According to Traditional Chinese Medicine Theory, there are a lot of pressure points under the foot and stimulating them benefits the body.





Yujin Bridge

Shaxi

Last market of the Tea-Horse Road

Yujin Bridge

A charming scene at nightfall

The Sideng Square Street (Sideng Sifangjie) is the main body of the town. In the town, there are four bridges, Yujin, Gu'ao, Xidi and Wenfeng. Yujin Bridge is the nearest bridge to the town. Going out of the town from the eastern gate, Yujin Bridge is hundreds of meters away.

Yujin Bridge is most charming at nightfall. In the humid atmosphere, you can smell the fragrance of wild flowers and grass, the taste of soil and slight taste of bull and horse dung. Sometimes, you can see farmers going home back from field work, carrying baskets on their backs or leading horses. Children are playing on the bridge. Sitting on the side of the bridge, you can see through the green trees the corner of the ancient stage. Clouds are changing forms in the sky which is getting darker. The whole scene is like a traditional Chinese ink and wash painting.

Sideng Square Market

The center of the town

Cross Yujin Bridge and enter the eastern gate to reach the market town. The eastern gate, called Dongzhaimen, was constructed with sun-baked mud brick. Compared to the high and grandiose stone-built gates in other places, this gate appears narrower, shabbier and countrified.

Still, it accurately reflects entrance gates on the Ancient Tea-Horse Road. The gate allows two horses to pass abreast. Besides Dongzhaimen, Sideng has another two gates: Nanzhaimen in the south and Beizhaimen in the north, which leads to a Tibetan area.

Past the eastern gate is a narrow and long lane lined with old stores. It is easy to imagine what the scene looked like in ancient times as horse-led caravans entered the market. Almost every store has a long counter. It is where people can trade and where store owners can load goods.

There are three ancient laneways in Sideng that are well preserved. Locals call them *Jiezixiang*, which means that the first trade in Sideng history was done in the lane.

The center of the market town, Sifangjie, is at the end of the lane. The market was paved with flagstones made of red grit. In the center of the market, there are two Chinese scholar trees that are thousands of years old.

At the east side of the square street is an ancient stage. On the opposite side of the stage is Xingjiao Temple. It is the only remaining Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) Azhali Buddhism temple of the Bai minority. In the past, operas were not only performed for people, but also for the gods in the temples.

The stage architecture is characteristic of Sifangjie. The main body of the stage is called Kuixingge, where local Bai minority people would sacrifice to the Kui Star. In the ancient Chinese culture, the Kui Star was regarded as the master of reputation, fortune and official career. The Kuixingge is three-storeyed.

In the past, when festival time came, all Bai people dressed in beautiful clothes and gathered to sing and dance on the stage. Locals regard the stage as one of the town's most important features.

The Ouyang Courtyard, which was built in late Qing Dynasty, is another famous site. Its gate, built with red-grit stone, looks amazing despite years of erosion. There are luxurious dwelling houses, stores and hostels in the courtyard.

If you think modernization is killing the glamor and beauty of Dali and Lijiang, Yunnan Province, then try Shaxi Town in Jianchuan County for a more traditional local taste.

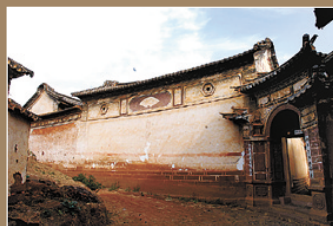
Shaxi Town is more than 2,400 years old and was an important stop on the Ancient Tea-Horse Road, a more than 4,000-kilometer trade route which carried tea across south China and Tibetan plateau into India.



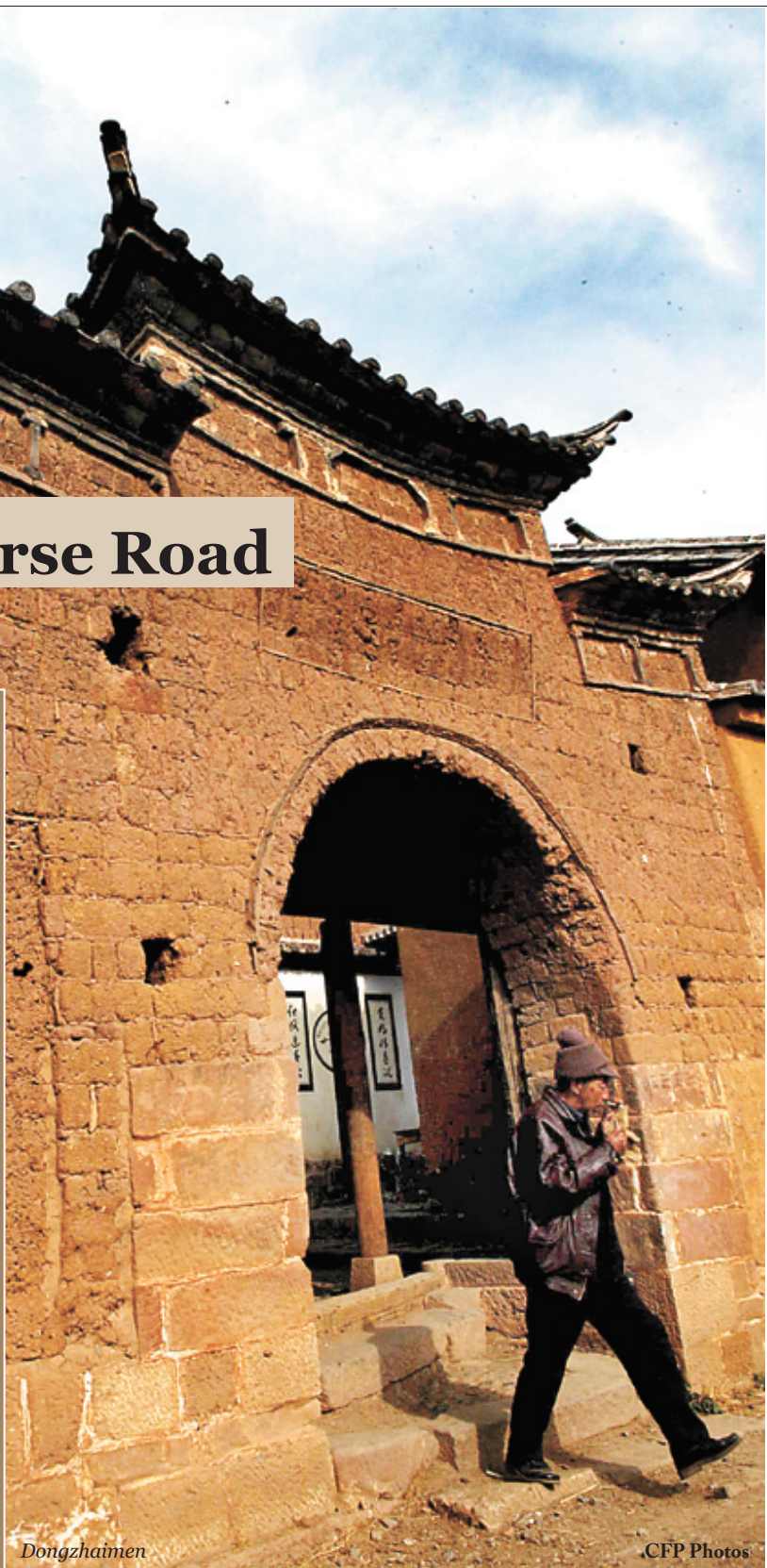
Stone paved laneway



Every store has a long counter.



The Ouyang Courtyard



Dongzhaimen

CFP Photos

Accommodations

It is convenient to stay in town. There are many hotels with clean rooms and reasonable rates. Sanjiexiang Hotel is recommended. Its courtyard is full of sunshine and makes people feel like at home.

The owner of the hotel, Ouyang Haiyu, has a nice family and prepares delicious food for guests. Free access to the Internet and washing machines are available.

Where: No 62, Sideng Street

Price: single room, 20 yuan; double room, 40 yuan.

Tel: 139 8725 2164

Getting there

If departing from Beijing, you can first fly to Kunming, Yunnan Province, and then transfer to Lijiang. There are buses from Lijiang to Jianchuan County.

(By Jackie Zhang)



Xingjiao Temple

Annecy

The most beautiful city



21

Travel abroad

By Zheng Lu

It has been called the Venice of Savoie and the balcony of the Alps: Annecy lies in the Haute-Savoie, France, 50 kilometers south of Geneva, Switzerland. Home to a population of 50,000, its housing prices are even higher than Paris, with many senior officials and expats from other European nations and the Americas moving there to retire. It was named the most beautiful city by National Geographic, and for the French, it is the number one tourist destination.

Annecy draws tourists during all four seasons. The city has an incomparable charm, an exceptional amount of sunshine and hundreds of miles of slopes to please the avid skier. Whatever your choice – culture, fine dining, wines, sports or nature – it can be found there.

Palais de l'isle, trip to ancient jail

Palais de l'Isle was built in 1132 in the center of the Thiou, the famous canal of Annecy. It remains the most distinctive monument of the city. When walking along the canal, it looks like a giant ship berthed in the river. Its triangular form in the shape of a ship's bow reminds visitors of the prow of an anchored galley.

The Palais has a long and complicated history despite its peaceful appearance today. It was the primary residence of the Lord of Annecy as early as the 12th century. Then it served as administrative headquarters when the Count of Geneva settled in Annecy, later then alternately a courthouse, the mint and finally a jail, from the Middle Ages until 1865 and once again during World War II. It was condemned to demolition at the end of the 19th century, but was saved when it was classified as a historical monument in 1900. Today, it houses exhibitions.

Sonata of the lake

The city's waterscape also include Lac d'Annecy, a lake framed by mountains and the clearest one in Europe. It is clearer than a swimming pool. The water is fed by two sources: rain and melt water from the Alps. It is also home to a wide range of wildlife, including plenty of stock for the amateur



Palais de l'isle was once a jail.



Lac d'Annecy lake



Annecy River

Photo by Qi Tianjiao

Photo by Zheng Lu

fishermen.

The lake was not always so pure. In the past, all the dirty water from the surrounding cities was dumped into the lake, and the extremely high level of pollution became a significant threat to the health of inhabitants. Things turned around in 1962, when a lot of money and labor was invested in cleaning the water and removing the waste. Divers were sent underwater to plug all the raw sewerage outlets from polluting businesses. It forced the nearby companies and hotels to abide by cleaner regulations.

The purification and the protection efforts had remarkable success. The lake has even become a very popular diving site. Other aquatic sports, like swimming, windsurfing and sailing, are also practiced. If you are in Annecy the first weekend of August, you will be able to attend its yearly fireworks display.

Events and festivals in July

Annecy is no doubt both a livable city and a joyful place to travel and host events. Abundant cultural activities and festivals are held there every year.

The International Annecy Lake Triathlon is one of the most popular and beautiful triathlons in France and has a very demanding course: a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-kilometer cycling from Bauges Nature Park and 10-kilometer run from the Imperial Hotel to the Paquier. People can participate with or without a license. The 21st International Annecy Lake Triathlon will be held on July 6.

Ten days later is the Summer Nights Festival. At the end of July, the street artists take up summer quarters in the old town and are given free rein to their creativity.

Tips

Getting There

To get to Annecy, you can take the TGV high speed train from Paris. The trip takes three hours. If you come from Lyon or Grenoble by train, you will arrive within half an hour.

Cost

A boating trip takes one to two hours, and some including lunch or dinner with choices to be made.

Housing

Lodging is cheaper than in other cities. A comfortable, small hotel is available for €50 to €60. Book a room in advance to ensure a vacancy during peak season. The Web site franceguide.com offers a searchable index of hotel costs.

Team Building or Relationship Building?

By Luke Lombe

Each of the department managers are doing a good job of looking after their area. Targets are being met, work is being cleared and from all outward appearances it would seem as though your organization is a smoothly-run and successful operation. What the casual observer does not see, however, is the bickering and back-stabbing, poor communication, lack of a common goal and low staff morale.

To rectify this problem, it has been decided that all managers will undertake a team-building program to bring back that 'warm fuzzy' feeling in the office. Some fun and exciting games where you get to run around and have a laugh is just the answer to all those problems. Or is it?

Team building seems to be the latest corporate craze in China with companies signing up for programs and get-aways at an ever-increasing rate. Everyone from the most senior managers to floor staff is participating in team building activities for a variety of reasons.

Many companies and consultants offering team building courses are really offering "relationship building" courses, which are essentially a program of activities or events that encourage commu-



ClarkMorgan Corporate Training

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nication and interaction between staff members outside of the normal working environment. These activities can be very effective in assisting staff members to learn more about each other, however, benefits can be short-lived as there is often difficulty in translating the activities back to a workplace context. If your staff cannot see how the team building activities apply to their daily work routine, then the whole exercise can be an expensive waste of time.

For truly effective team building, the very first question that has to be asked is, "Why do we need this?" This question can be a lot more difficult to answer than it sounds. In order to gain a true understanding of the real issues prompting the call for team building, it may well be necessary to fully analyse your staff and the working environment. A proper analysis will yield some interesting and insightful results that will lay a strong foundation for a fully-customised team building course that deals with the specific issues and problems of the group.

With a solid understanding of the issues facing the team it is possible to draw up a blueprint for an effective team-building program that is a carefully-balanced combination of practical theoretical background with relevant and engaging activities. This will allow your staff the opportunity to explore the very essence of what it means to be an effective team.

Herein lies the fundamental difference between "team building" and "relationship building". When activities are introduced after an analysis of the problem areas, staff members can begin to identify the relevance of the activities as they relate to their job. Establishing a clear connection between the problem and the solution also allows the participants to claim ownership over the solution and fosters an environment where some real progress can be made.

So, ask yourself what you really want – a group of people with a good relationship? Or, a synergistic team united towards a common goal?



National Marketing Manager –
ClarkMorgan
Luke.lombe@clarkmorgan.com

Hotel

Overseas Singaporean Club is launched at the Grand Millennium Beijing

Overseas Singaporean Unit (OSU) is officially launching the Overseas Singaporean Club (OSC) at the Grand Millennium Beijing.

OSC members in China will enjoy happy hours during Singapore Night on the first Friday of every month as well as discounts on F&B outlets, hotel room rates and facilities including gym memberships. Singaporean newspapers and magazines are also made available at the hotel for OSC members.

For more information on the OSC, please refer to overseassingaporean.sg.

(By Li Jing)



Nightlife

Celebrate Independence Day Party

Where: Block 8, 8 West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang

When: 9 pm – 3 am (next day), July 4

Cost: 100 yuan

Tel: 6508 8585

Dance! Dance! Dance!

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: 9 pm – 2 am (next day), July 5

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Aviation

Singapore Airlines fly A380 to Beijing

With A380, Singapore Airlines will operate the route between Beijing and Singapore the week before the opening of the Beijing Olympic Games, to support the Olympics.

Promotional tickets cost 3,500 yuan for the round trip between Beijing and Singapore which is valid within 14 days. Tickets are available before August 8. For more information, visit singaporeair.com/china.

Air France offers second daily flight on the Shanghai-Paris route

Air France is adding two more weekly flights on its Shanghai – Paris route, taking the total number of flights between Shanghai and Paris from 12 to 14 each week, including a single day flight and a single evening flight.

The day flight from Shanghai to Paris leaves at 11:10 am and arrives at 5:30 pm the same day. The return flight leaves at 3:55 pm and arrives at 8:55 am the following morning.

The evening flight from Shanghai to Paris leaves at 11:35 pm and arrives at 5:50 am the following morning. The return flight leaves at 11:15 pm and arrives at 4:15 pm the following day.

Outdoors

Silver Pagoda loop

The Silver Pagodas were built more than 300 years ago. They are situated at the foot of a mountain. Their silver bells used to ring in the breeze, and are the source of the name of this peaceful spot.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, July 5

Cost: 300 yuan

Tel: 13910025516
(reservations are essential)

A pilgrimage to Qinghai's sacred land

The trip will take travelers into the heart of Qinghai's most sacred places –

hidden monasteries and centuries – old stupas locked deep inside bald mountains and remote valleys, where the best Tibetan art can also be found. Qinghai's natural beauty will also be appreciated in the Kanbla National Forest, a remote landscape of red sandstone peaks and meandering yellow rivers and in the Nanzhong Valley, nestled in between *danxia* peaks and dense forest lines.

When: Fly to Xining on July 5 and fly back on July 10

Cost: 7,700 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041
(reservations are essential)

If you have any info for this page,
please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Aussie and Harriet, mate?



By Gan Tian

One day when I was hanging out with a bunch of friends in Sanlitun, I ran into West Portman, an American, who had brought along two of his university friends, Wax Tam and Nancy Liu. When West introduced them, he said, with a tone of admiration and slight sarcasm, "These two have been together for six years, since high school!" We were amazed and broke into applause, then he turned around to them, "You two are such sweet love birds! I bet you are enjoying life right now."

"Well, most of the time, we are like Ozzie and Harriet! Otherwise we'd go out clubbing with you," Nancy said immediately. Everybody laughed out loud except me. I realized that I had missed an American pop culture reference that had been used, "Ozzie and Harriet."

I whispered to West, asking about this Ozzie and Harriet couple. He first snickered and then explained, "It's easy to figure out. It means a couple who are very close, spend a lot of time together and actually enjoy a boring, domestic married life. But I don't think that Wax and Nancy suffer that much. They seem very happy."

When I continued to ask where this phrase came from, he turned around, buried himself in the loud disco music and totally ignored me. I decided to pursue the truth by myself.

I knew that "Aussies" meant someone from Australia, but where did "Harriet" fit into the equation? And Australians certainly are not boring. They are very animated, fun-loving and interesting people especially their colorful language. I love Aussies.

When I got home I opened my computer and Googled "Aussie and Harriet," but received no results. I called my friend and he said type in "Ozzie and Harriet and watch what happens. I did and volumes of information flooded my screen much to my shock. "Ozzie and Harriet" was actually a very popular American television show involving a real-life family named the Nelsons featuring a married couple Ozzie and Harriet who were raising three sons in the 50's and 60's. The show focused on a very typical American family from that era. Not exciting but very typical. Back then and today, people sometimes refer to a married couple living a seemingly idyllic lifestyle as "Ozzie and Harriet."

So, it turns out that Ozzie is someone's name. I was confusing that name with "Aussie," the nickname we have given to Australians. And, of course, there is one other famous Ozzy that everyone knows and that is crazed rocker Ozzy Osbourne who also recently had a reality television show about his family which is definitely not a typical American family.

**Blacklist**

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. A 1,000 years ago

If you wish to say 1,000, which is pronounced as one thousand, it is wrong to add "a" before "1,000 years ago." However, under certain conditions, an indefinite article does go before a numerical expression. For instance, "He can hardly run a 10,000 meters in his condition." In this case, 10,000 meters is regarded as a unit, actually meaning a distance of 10,000 meters and the indefinite article "a" place before the figure is acceptable.

2. Manufacture

Students are sometimes confused with manufacture and manufacturer. Both are nouns with different meanings. Manufacture means the making of goods and articles while manufacturer means one who is in the business of manufacturing. We also have manufactured goods which means industrial goods while we say the makers of steel are the manufacturers of steel.

3. The affects of high oil prices

In this phrase, the writer has mistaken "affect" for "effect." They look very much alike, but are vastly different. The writer wants to say, "The effects of high oil prices." Usually "affect" is used as a verb, meaning producing an effect upon something. Sometimes people do use "affect" as a noun, meaning psychologically a disposition or tendency. However, this use has gone the way of the dinosaur.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. A 1,000 years ago

This is one exercise where getting an "A" is not a good thing. In the example phrase, the article "A" cannot precede the numeral, "1,000." It does not make any sense when you read it. Dropping the "A" is the simple fix here giving you, "1,000 years ago." Remember, if this phrase is used to start your sentence, you must write the figure out in words: "One thousand years ago." There are certain occasions when you will see an indefinite article appearing before a number. For example, when the numeral is being used in the adjective form like, "He ran a 25-kilometer race to win the gold medal." Or, usually in sports events, you'll see this structure, "He ran a 10,000 meters before collapsing." Sounds a tad odd but is proper English. The "10,000 meters" here is regarded as a unit and can handle the indefinite article, "a" preceding it. Go figure.

2. Manufacture or manufacturer?

In my job as a copy-editor, correcting copy written by an all-Chinese staff, I see these two words confused continuously. So much fuss over one little letter, "r." Both words are nouns with one big difference. "Manufacture" is the actual process of making something. Now, if you add the letter "r" to the end of the word giving you, "manufacturer", you have the person or company that made the product. The word "manufacture" is of Latin origin and literally means to make by hand, for any Romans who might be reading this column. So, in conclusion, please be careful where you park your "r."

3. Affects of high oil prices

The glaring error in this phrase is the misuse of the word, "affects." The writer is looking for the noun form of this word which is, "effect." That is what is needed here to be correct English grammar. "Affect" is a verb and doesn't fit in the example phrase. Again, as in the previous example, one letter can mess up the mix tremendously. The following sentence hopefully demonstrates the proper use of each word: The effects of the experiment affected the scientist in such a way that he became a monstrous, green-colored, hulk with a hair-trigger temper." And it was a great film, was it not?

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Bag store free

By Derrick Sobodash

While a free bag store may not sound like the world's best business model, it would no doubt be welcomed by everyone caught bagless since the citywide bag ban began. However, that's not quite what this sign says, though it is the closest logical interpretation of the words present.

The sign says, "Bag Store Free - Please visit exhibition after storing bags, take yourself with cash and valuables. Rely on the brand take your bag, thank you."

Obviously, when you look at the rest of the sign, it becomes clear this is advertising "Free Bag Storage." While store can be a verb, the place you put something when you store it is "storage."

The next part should be flipped around. While the way the writer does it is correct, it would be more natural to mention the bag storage first. If someone quit reading mid-sentence, they

would miss out on important instructions. Try, "Please store any bags before visiting the exhibition."

Telling people to take themselves is awkward because, logically, they cannot leave themselves behind. The writer probably wants people to simply take their belongings. "Remove your cash and valuables before depositing" works nicely.

From there, it descends into nonsense. Rely on the brand? This is totally incomprehensible. The writer may be trying to say you can trust the person at the counter with your bags. Speaking for himself, this writer is very suspicious of those who tell him he can trust them. If this line is essential, it could be rendered as, "You can trust the attendant with your bags." A better choice would be to skip it and go straight to the "Thank you."

免费存包处
请您存包后参观展览。现金和贵重物品请随身配带。凭存包牌取包，谢谢！

BA STORE FREE
Please visit exhibition after storing bags. take yourself with cash and valuables. Rely on the brand take your bag, thank you



Scene 1

Po dreams of being a warrior

Narration (N): Legend tells of⁽¹⁾ a legendary warrior whose kung fu skills were the stuff of legend. He traveled the land in search of worthy foes.

Foe: I see you like to chew. Maybe you should chew on my fist.

N: The warrior said nothing, for his mouth was full. Then he swallowed, and he spoke.

Po (P): Enough talk, let's fight.

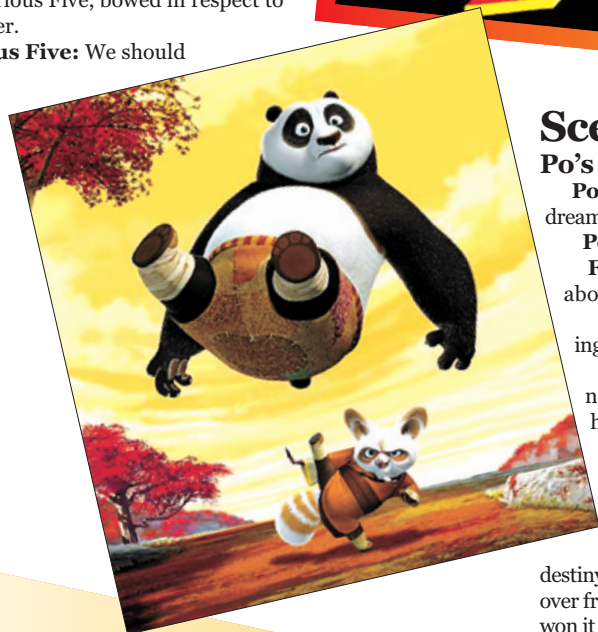
N: He was so deadly in fact that his enemies would go blind from overexposure to his pure awesomeness

Foe: He is so awesome⁽²⁾, and attractive. How can we repay you?

P: There is no charge for awesomeness ... or attractiveness.

N: It matters not how many foes he faced, they were no match for his foedacity. Never before had a panda been so feared, and so loved. Even the most heroic heroes in all of China – the Furious Five, bowed in respect to this great master.

The Furious Five: We should hang out⁽³⁾!



Scene 2

Po's father's expectations for Po

Po's father Mr. Ping (F): What were you dreaming about?

Po (P): Was I ... I was dreaming about noodles.

F: Noodles? You were really dreaming about noodles?

P: Yeah, what else would I have been dreaming about? Oh, be careful, that soup is hot!

F: Oh, happy day! My son finally had the noodle dream! You don't know how long I have been waiting for this moment! This is a sign, Po.

P: A sign of what?

F: You are almost ready to be entrusted with⁽⁴⁾ the secret ingredient of my secret ingredient soup, and then you'll fulfill your destiny and take over⁽⁵⁾ the restaurant just as I took it over from my father who took it from his father who won it in a game of Mahjong.



Vocabulary:

- Tell of something:** describe.
- Awesome:** terrific, extraordinary.
- Hang out:** to get together and behave naturally, relaxed, usually with a group of friends.
- Be entrusted with:** to be given total responsibility for something.
- Take over:** to assume control.
- Slight:** not considerable, noticeable, or serious.
- Sacred:** dedicated or set apart for the service or worship of a deity.
- Urn:** an ornamental vase usually set on a pedestal and used for various purposes like holding the ashes of a deceased one after cremation.
- My patience is wearing thin:** I am losing my patience.
- Fix up:** to set right, to repair.
- Scroll:** a roll of papyrus, leather, or parchment with important words inscribed upon it.
- Trampoline:** a resilient sheet or web (of nylon) supported by springs in a metal frame and used as a springboard and landing area in tumbling.
- Warm up:** to limber up, to become ready for action or a performance by exercising in advance.
- Stuck:** in a fixed position, impossible to move.
- Do a split:** the act of lowering oneself to the floor with legs extended at right angles to the trunk.

(By Zheng Lu)

Scene 3

Po visits the sacred hall and is scolded by Master Shifu

Po: Wait a second. I think there has been a slight⁽⁶⁾ mistake. Everyone seems to think that I'm a ... Wow, the sacred⁽⁷⁾ hall of warriors. Oh, wait. Look at this place, Master Flying Rhino's armor with authentic battle drama. Wow, the sword of heroes. It's said to be so sharp that you can cut yourself just by looking at it ... Oh, the invisible trident of destiny. I've only seen the paintings of that painting. No, the legendary urn⁽⁸⁾ of whispering warriors, it's said to contain the souls of the entire Tenchu army. Hello?

Master Shifu (M): Have you finished sightseeing?

P: Sorry, I should have come to see you first.

M: My patience is wearing thin⁽⁹⁾.

P: Oh, well, I mean, it's not

like you are going anywhere.

M: Would you turn around?

P: Sure. Hey, how's it going. Now how did you get the five ... Master Shifu?! Oh, someone broke that, but I'm going to fix it⁽¹⁰⁾. Do you have some glue?

M: So, you're the legendary Dragon Warrior, huh?

P: I guess so.

M: Wrong! You are not the Dragon Warrior. You'll never be the Dragon Warrior until you have learned the secret of the Dragon Scroll⁽¹¹⁾.

P: Wow, so how does his work? Do you have a ladder or trampoline⁽¹²⁾ or ...

Scene 4

Po arose early to practice his skills and gets stuck

Po (P): Ha! Hi! Good morning,

master! I thought I'd warm up⁽¹³⁾ a little.

M: He's stuck⁽¹⁴⁾.

P: Stuck? No, what? No, this is ... yeah, I'm stuck.

M: Help him.

Crane (C): Oh, dear.

P: Maybe on three. One, two, thank you!

C: Don't mention it.

P: No, really. I appreciate ...

C: Ever!

M: You actually thought you can learn to do a fourth split⁽¹⁵⁾ in one night? It takes years to develop one's flexibility, and years longer to apply it compatibly.

Movie of the week

With an all-star cast and great support all round, this is one early-summer film that should have legs well into the season. Its dual message of "follow your dreams" and "everyone is special and important" is delivered naturally as the story line moves on. Admittedly, sometimes we may feel frustrated when we have been assigned tasks that seem impossible for us to complete. Nevertheless, maybe we should choose to believe in ourselves and ignore outside negative influences. Po, the clumsy but optimistic panda acts as a good example for us to follow though he also thinks about quitting occasionally. Under the guidance of Master Oogway and Master Shifu, he finally chooses to believe in himself. Don't we forget the prophetic words of Oogway, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift, that is why it's called the present."

Synopsis

Po is a bungling panda who helps his father sell noodles and is secretly a huge fan of kung fu. By day, he works faithfully in his family's noodle shop, but by night he dreams of becoming a true master of the martial arts. One day, he is accidentally rocketed into the ring where the next Master Dragon is being chosen by Master Oogway. No one can believe Po's the Dragon Warrior, not even Po himself. But when Tai Lung, an evil-minded snow leopard escapes from prison set on revenge, it is time for Po and his Master Shifu to somehow transform Po's greatest weaknesses into his greatest strengths and fulfill his destiny.